8th Meeting of the United Nations Senior Leadership Group on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience (UN SLG)

MEETING REPORT

17 May 2023
UN Headquarters New York
1. Introduction

In 2016, the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) endorsed the revised UN Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience: Towards a Risk-informed and Integrated Approach to Sustainable Development (UN Plan of Action) to align it with the international frameworks adopted in 2015, including the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (‘Sendai Framework’), the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement and other international agreements.

The UN Plan of Action is an important tool to maximize the joint impact of UN System action in support of countries to strengthen disaster and climate risk-informed development and humanitarian planning and investment with a view to leaving no one behind.

The UN Senior Leadership Group on DRR for Resilience (UN SLG) was established by the Chief Executive Board (CEB) to ensure that disaster and climate risk reduction remain a priority for the UN System as well as to enhance cooperation, coordination, and mutual reinforcement for coherent system-wide actions. The UN SLG is composed of UN entity representatives at Assistant Secretary-General level and is chaired by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction (SRSG).

During its annual meetings, the UN SLG reviews the status of the UN Plan of Action implementation based on annual progress and formulates recommendations to prioritize actions that help address identified needs and gaps. The 8th Meeting of the UN SLG was further informed by the findings and recommendations of the Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (MTR SF).

The MTR SF offers a set of solutions for the needed transformations, policy adjustments and new modalities of implementation related to the Sendai Framework in order to accelerate progress to 2030 and beyond. The MTR SF complements a number of processes ahead which seek to stocktake progress on the 2030 agenda for sustainable development including the 2023 SDG Summit, 2023 Climate Ambition Summit, and the Summit of the Future in 2024.

The 8th Meeting of the UN SLG was convened on 17th May 2023 at the United Nations Headquarters, New York. The in-person meeting was complemented by attendees joining virtually. 34 UN entities attended the meeting (see Annex 2). UN SLG members reflected on on their role in accelerating the Sendai Framework implementation over the next seven years, taking into consideration the MTR SF’s main findings and recommendations for accelerated progress towards the SDGs. The meeting had the following objectives:

- To reflect on the Sendai Framework Midterm Review's main findings and recommendations in the context of the Secretary General’s Our Common Agenda, the 2023 SDG Summit and the Climate Ambition Summit, and the Summit of the Future 2024.
- To discuss the priorities for the UN system and the UN system entities’ role in accelerating the Sendai Framework implementation over the next seven years, taking into consideration the Sendai Framework Midterm Review's main findings and recommendations.
• To review and agree on the next steps of a draft set of UN SLG recommendations intended to help maximize the UN System’s support to countries in implementing the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction and the UN Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience.

To set the scene for those discussions, the Chair, Ms. Mami Mizutori, SRSG, provided an introduction, reflecting on the findings from the MTR SF concerning governance, highlighting the following points:

• **Establishing adaptative governance arrangements to effectively understand and manage risks related to all hazards across all sectors, domains, and scales.** This requires a shift in the responsibility for preventing risk existence and creation away from a single centralized entity, to coordinated, risk-informed decision-making and investment that involves all stakeholders. It was observed that most institutional actors remain unable to articulate a coherent and directed approach to disaster risk reduction, which hinders our progress towards anticipating, preventing and addressing planetary risks.

• **Ensuring that mechanisms and approaches recognize the systemic nature of risk and are supported by legislative and regulatory frameworks** that reflect shared responsibility for risk-informed decision-making and investment. Such frameworks must involve clear governance arrangements, in which multiple authorities take well-defined responsibility for preventing and reducing disaster risk. In alignment with international human rights law obligations, such normative measures should be gender-responsive, disability-inclusive and reflect a human rights-based approach.

• **Mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into the implementation of other relevant policy areas**, such as sustainable development, poverty eradication, climate change mitigation and adaptation, health, biodiversity, food security, water and sanitation, infrastructure, and others, at national and subnational levels, and in collaboration with relevant UN entities and stakeholders.

• **Supporting and enabling all local authorities to have disaster risk reduction strategies and local platforms, or similar mechanisms in place**, is a necessity. Some concrete ways this can be done were suggested, including by: strengthening the role of local authorities for multi-hazard risk governance through financial assistance, technical support and capacity development; promoting local ownership through community-based disaster risk management approaches; and participating for example in the “Making Cities Resilient 2030” initiative to promote exchanges between cities.

### 2. Reflections by Governments and stakeholders on the role of UN System entities to move the main findings and recommendations of the MTR SF forward

This section highlights the main points raised by Member States and selected stakeholders on implementing the MTR SF recommendations and partnership opportunities with UN system entities. The Chair invited national and local government's perspectives as well as views from the private sector and youth.
Australia and Indonesia, the co-facilitators of the MTR SF political declaration shared their reflections on the process to draft the political declaration. H.E. Mr. Mitch Fifield, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations, confirmed that Member States were generally supportive of the process to renew their commitment to the Sendai Framework and indicated that reaching the agreement involved 5 informal negotiations and four iterations of the text. Specifically, there were six areas where countries differed:

i. Some Member States were in favour of text referring to climate mitigation and adaptation while others objected on the basis that it would be too prescriptive or that there would be a risk to re-writing the Sendai Framework by introducing elements that are not reflected in the original text. Loss & Damage financing was debated highlighting that specific modalities have not been finalized. The final text of the MTR SF political declaration refers to Loss & Damage in the context of welcoming the outcomes of the 27th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC.

ii. Many Member States advocated for the focus to be on financing from developed countries, while others sought to balance this with references to accountability or anti-corruption measures. Ultimately there is a strong focus on financing in the political declaration including the critical role of public spending alongside donor funds, private sector investment, and international financial institutions.

iii. Some Parties argued that adopting an integrated approach across humanitarian, development, peace and climate action is accepted as an effective and efficient approach within development practices; while others raised concern that merging these issue areas could reduce the quantity of development financing. The final text refers to the current status quo within the UN, as agreed in the Economic and Financial Committee (Second Committee).

iv. Technology transfer was an area of contention with some delegations seeking transferal, concessional or preferential terms in reference to the Sendai Framework. Others wanted transfer on mutually agreed terms consistent with the second committee resolution. This was resolved through a compromise with two references to each in the final text.

v. Anticipatory action approaches were a hard-line issue for some delegations. Member States agreed that while the practice is not controversial some parties felt the term was controversial by being ill-defined and therefore, they were not able to accept it. The text landed on the need to encourage greater investment early and deliver anticipatory approaches to prevent the impact of disasters.

vi. Some delegations advocated strongly to incorporate text condemning the use of unilateral coercive measures (UCM) or sanctions. Ultimately UCM language was not included in the final version of the text.

Reflecting on the positive engagement of Member States in negotiating the political declaration, H.E. Mr. Armanatha C. Nasir, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Indonesia to the United Nations, remarked that there were a number of areas of commonality:

- Member States acknowledged the importance of high-quality disaster risk data, improved disaster collection systems and data disaggregated by age, sex and
disability for inclusive DRR and effective Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems (MHEWS). Nature and ecosystem-based solutions, localization, and mainstreaming of DRR were highlighted as important factors in strengthening disaster risk governance.

- Member States recognized the need for increased financing, including from donors, private sector and domestic resources were also noted as required in tandem with good governance and accountability mechanisms. It was noted that an agreement was reached on the need to systematically integrate DRR principles into inclusive response, rehabilitation, reconstruction policies and programmes.
- Member States called for DRR to be mainstreamed across all work of the UN system, including country analysis, and planning and programming documents. Member States also called on the UN to scale-up technical support to assist countries to mainstream DRR across all relevant policy areas, including in the development of standards, legislation, regulations, monitoring and MHEWS.

From the perspective of local governments, Mr. Gino Van Begin, Secretary General, Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI) made the following points with regards to the MTR SF:

- While the MTR SF reveals progress on DRR is being made, it is not consistent across all countries. Challenges include a collective failing to place risk reduction at the heart of societal, political, and economic choices. Global access to disaster data and risk knowledge, including MHEWS, remains inadequate. Moreover, the increased economic cost of disasters does not match with financing available for risk reduction. Risk therefore continues to be externalized throughout the global financial system.
- Targets related to affected populations have not been achieved, mostly due to an increase in climate-related disasters and COVID-19.
- Positively, it was recognized that the Sendai Framework is helping to raise awareness that countries and cities have disaster preparedness strategies in-place.
- The emphasis on the need to strengthen risk governance at all scales and across all sectors was welcomed, as was the call to synergise with other international frameworks which require implementation at local and subnational level.
- The explicit reference to the Making Cities Resilient 2030 initiative and the need for multi-level collaboration were stressed as essential.

As a member of the newly established UNDRR convened Investment Advisory Board, Mr. Warren Pimm, Senior Managing Director of Pan American Finance, provided a private sector perspective:

- The Investment Advisory Board was established to engage the international private and public institutional investment community to support the implementation of the Sendai Framework. The Board will bring together leading sustainable infrastructure and investment specialists from across a range of global financial institutions to consider a series of different private-public sector finance tools, partnerships, frameworks, and new prospective initiatives, where the international financial community can come together in support of the Sendai Framework.
- The Board will be focusing on ‘key market failures’, where public or private sector finance is not meeting the market's requirements in financing DRR. It is expected to
Ms. Jekulin Lipi, co-focal point of the UNDRR Stakeholder Engagement Mechanism and representative of the Sendai Children and Youth Stakeholder Group, conveyed how young people are calling for accelerated action on resilience and partnerships through, among other things, including:

- Meaningful engagement of youth in DRR and climate change adaptation policy discussions, upholding their rights to information and participation; support to youth-led monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the Sendai Framework;
- Developing standardized guidelines at a county level to back children- and youth-centred DRR policy implementation and disaster management laws;
- Cash transfers for funding youth-led resilient infrastructure projects; and
- Support for the development of a ‘local resilience framework for children’ to review education curriculum and revise capacity development for children and youth on DRR.

3. Role of the UN system to implement the findings and recommendations of the MTR SF

This section highlights reflections on the UN system entities' role in implementing the MTR SF findings and recommendations, starting with perspectives from the global, regional and national levels, followed by UN entities consideration to the draft 2023 UN SLG recommendations.

3.1. UN system global, regional and national perspectives

Sharing insights on how the recommendations of the MTR SF inform key transitions to accelerate implementation of the SDGs and the Secretary-General's 'Our Common Agenda', Mr. Guy Bernard Ryder, the Under-Secretary-General for Policy conveyed:

- **Need for improved risk governance**: The harsh reminder is that halfway to the 2030 agenda, only 12% of SDG targets are on track, and while it may be tempting to blame stalled progress on disasters, we were off-track before recent events. Conventional approaches to disaster risk management are not adequately addressing needs.

- **Three transitions which are required**:
  1. Identifying risks transversely and to better understand and act on the interdependence of social, economic and environmental factors. As risks don't operate in siloes it seems improbable therefore that our responses will be effective if confined to siloes.
  2. Developing stronger governance frameworks, including across scales, particularly at the local level in LDCs and SIDSs. Disaster risk reduction needs to be integrated into common country analysis as well as planning and programming documents, including the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks, in line with
national policies, priorities and processes. It was noted that the Early Warnings for All (EW4All) provides a useful entry point in this regard.

3. Mobilizing greater resources for prevention and resilience. This includes the replenishment of the Green Climate Fund, operationalizing the Loss & Damage Fund, and developing a roadmap to double adaptation funding by 2025, which are just some of the long list of actions required; we also need to find ways to better leverage the full spectrum of pre and post-disaster resources.

- In regard to the complementarity between the Sendai Framework, Our Common Agenda and 2024 Summit of the Future, the following was highlighted:
  - The establishment of an emergency platform to strengthen the system’s capacity to respond to complex global shocks. Risks can materialize simultaneously, shocks are increasingly complex, and spill-over individual mandates.
  - The delivery a Global Risk Report in 2024, drawing on UN and external expertise, and is linked to the proposed establishment of the UN Future Lab Network intending to increase UN capacities including on data analytics and foresight.
  - The required reform of the international financial architecture intends to be far reaching. Explicitly within the framework are clear ideas about contingency clauses in financial arrangements, to provide immediate financial support to countries where required.

Providing a regional perspective on behalf of the five UN Regional Economic Commissions (REC), Ms. Tiziana Bonapace, Director, Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction Division, UNESCAP, highlighted ideas on how to leverage regional coordination mechanisms to implement the UN SLG recommendations:

- RECs are stepping-up regional cooperative efforts to achieve climate resilience.
  - ESCAP through its Asia Pacific Risk and Resilience Portal geolocates vulnerable areas and people at-risk in 55 countries of the region, while strengthening collaboration around DRR in humanitarian and crisis contexts, where required.
  - ECLAC supported DRR integration into recovery frameworks, and published disaster assessments with the Inter-American Development Bank. Other examples were provided.

- In support of the UN Secretary General’s EW4All, ESCWA in coordination with ESCAP, WMO, and others, are launching inter-regional dialogues on sand and dust storms and building the capacities of National Met Services. Economic Commission for Africa is supporting the establishment and operationalization of Multi-hazard Early Warning and Early Action Systems Situation Rooms for DRR at subregional levels through the Africa Working Group on DRR.

- RECs undertook various localization efforts, including in the field of transboundary risks.

- The UN can become better fit-for-purpose through two avenues: By taking advantage of the vast knowledge, tools, and practices within and across our regions to enhance coordination between regional and global actors, for which all RECs have excellent examples of cooperation. By leveraging the reformed regional UN system to address resilience-building through the Issues-based Coalitions.
Considerations on how to translate the UN SLG recommendations into concrete action at the country level were shared by Mr. Didier Trebucq, Resident Coordinator at United Nations Multi-Country Office for Barbados and Eastern Caribbean:

- The Caribbean Multi-Country Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework has risk-informed programming at its core. The Cooperation Framework also includes a dedicated outcome on inclusive and gender-responsive disaster risk management.

- Three specific obstacles to ensuring coherence were noted:
  - At the national level, limited institutional capacity at the sectoral level in public and private sectors;
  - At the regional level, limited human and financial resources to support governments to deliver on the Sendai Framework ambitions; and
  - Transforming risk governance in SIDSs requires stronger linkages between action on disaster risk reduction, climate and sustainable development across the UN system.

- Ideas to overcome these obstacles include:
  - At the national level, support to multisectoral platforms for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation to risk-inform sustainable development;
  - At the regional level, build the capacity of regional institutions to utilize the latest scientific data, and joint workplans to utilize the totality of UN resources;
  - Promote and scale-up joint UN system-wide programming to avoid fragmentation.

3.2 UN SLG reflections on the draft 2030 UN SLG Recommendations

Introducing to the interactive session of the meeting, Ms. Paola Albrito, Director, UNDRR, presented the process which led to the draft 2030 UN SLG recommendations:

- A consultative process was initiated with a mapping of MTR SF recommendations against priorities identified in the joint report of the UN organisations for the MTR SF. Links to existing global mechanisms, processes and initiatives, including the recommendations for accelerated progress towards the SDGs and Our Common Agenda priorities were also considered. Based on this mapping, priority areas were identified to form the basis of the 2030 UN SLG recommendations.

- The recommendations were prepared in light of three aspects seeking to maximize their impact and efficiency:
  1. the call to focus on system-wide work across the full scope of hazards as per the Sendai Framework,
  2. the importance of emphasizing country-level implementation and impact, while recognizing that global initiatives are also required as they can transform country-level work, and
  3. the need to build on the UN Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience and previous UN SLG recommendations.

- Thanks were shared to all UN entities who engaged in the process, and specifically the Core Team, namely IOM, UNDP, UNEP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UN Women and WMO.

- Five recommendations (see table below) have been put forward, each complemented by a narrative which highlights what aspects should be addressed by the UN system.
UN entities shared their reflections related to the five recommendations and initial expressions of interest to co-lead or support the 2030 UN SLG recommendations.

Recommendation 1: Strengthen risk governance at all levels, including within and across sectors.

Recommendation 1 was approved by UN entities. UNICEF highlighted that this recommendation should include activities to fill critical data disaggregation gaps on age and sex. Contributions from UN entities to advance this UN SLG recommendation include:

- **FAO** stands ready to develop normative guidance and to support countries to integrate DRR in policies, programmes, and related legislative and regulatory frameworks, applying a multi-dimensional risk lens to risk-inform agrifood systems. FAO is committed to ensuring coherence and synergies between DRR and climate change adaptation in agriculture building on their experience of enhancing sectoral alignment in over 40 countries. FAO will scale-up support to countries in strengthening multi-risk governance in fragile and food crises contexts, with a focus on integrated assessment of disaster risks, together with context analysis and conflict sensitive approaches.

- **IFAD** is committed to building disaster risk reduction principles into agricultural and rural development programmes in a multisectoral way. IFAD also reaffirmed its commitment to enhancing community resilience to effectively respond to and recover from disasters, including through knowledge sharing and capacity building.
- **ILO** is committed to strengthening collaboration with the private sector through their tripartite constituents, and to anchor risk reduction strategies at the workplace and at the local level.

- **UNCCD** will continue to engage with 70 countries through the [Drought Initiative](https://www.unccd.int/), supporting Parties to shift from a reactive to a proactive and risk-based approach.

- **UNCTAD** will continue its longstanding research, technical cooperation, consensus building and collaboration on climate change adaptation and DRR for ports and other key transport infrastructure, an issue critical for international trade across supply-chains, and for countries at greatest risk, including SIDS. Special emphasis will be placed on coherent and effective policy and legal frameworks that facilitate risk-assessment, adaptation and DRR, as well as related capacity-building, particularly for the most vulnerable countries. UNCTAD will also continue its work, jointly with UN-ECA, to assist African countries in reducing their vulnerability in the agriculture and fisheries sectors to climate change impacts and weather-extremes.

- **UNDCO** will continue to support Resident Coordinators to scale up anticipatory, adaptive and agile programming, working with key operational entities to go beyond risk mitigating strategies and towards programming that is resilient and adaptive by design.

- **UNDP** will continue to support the roll-out of the [UN Guidance on Helping Build Resilient Societies](https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/ourwork/development-efficiency-and-effectiveness/guidance-on-helping-build-resilient-societies), a critical guide to overcome existing risk management siloes and pursue an integrated resilience building approach.

- **UNECE** will continue to support Member States in strengthening governance, based on legally binding agreements in relation to environment and transport, housing, urban development, forestry, statistics, population, energy and trade, which provide important regulatory backbones to governments to manage disaster risks and strengthen resilience. Support will be provided to develop local to national risk governance structures, cross-sectoral coordination mechanisms such as National Policy Dialogues, and the Forum of Mayors. Additionally, UNECE will support risk-informed development through the integration of risk into Common Country Analysis and UN Sustainable Development Frameworks.

- **UNEP** highlighted the importance of targeting action to high priority sectors where the UN can harness its sectorial expertise to promote governance reform, while also looking at the interconnections between public and private investments and local governance.

- **UN-Habitat** will continue to advocate for and support the implementation of frameworks, policy and plans that promote holistic risk reduction initiatives, leveraging its ongoing territorial resilience approach to produce normative material that will strengthen metropolitan and territorial resilience.

- **UNOHRLLS** referenced the linked Doha Programme of Action for Least Developed Countries as an exemplary illustration of risk-informed development and its support to the Third UN Conference on the LLDCs and the fourth International Conference for the Small Island Developing States.

- **UNOPS** will continue to support partners to complete risk and vulnerability assessments of infrastructure assets and systems to identify critical assets for upgrading or retrofitting, to improve safety and resilience.
UNU will contribute to strengthening capacities to govern multi-dimensional and systemic risk.

WHO will continue to support countries to engage in whole of society and whole of government processes. WHO is committed to advancing integrated approaches to risk-informed programming at country, regional and global level, to further aligning disaster risk reduction actions at all levels and to complementing efforts to strengthen pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response, as well as obligations under the International Health Regulations (2005).

Preliminary indication was provided by UN-Habitat to act as co-lead, specifically with regard to action in urban areas.

Recommendation 2: Accelerate efforts to risk-informed programming in development, humanitarian and peace actions.

Recommendation 2 was approved by UN entities. Contributions from UN entities to advance this UN SLG recommendation include:

- **DPPA** stressed that more needs to be done to maximize synergies between disaster risk reduction, conflict prevention and peacebuilding, and to follow conflict sensitive principles. While the Climate Security Mechanism represents a big step forward in this regard, more partnerships are needed with environmental experts, regional organizations, IFIs, civil society and the private sector. DPPA will continue to support this agenda through field-based deployments and Peacebuilding Fund investments.

- **FAO** will continue to support countries to strengthen their capacities to monitor disaster loss and damage in the agriculture sector and Sendai Framework indicator C2: direct agriculture loss attributed to disaster. FAO stands ready to ensure that close linkages are made with the [UN Common Guidance on Helping Build Resilient Societies](https://onlineUN.org), including by adopting sustainable response and nature-positive recovery through the integration of Nature-based Solutions in agriculture. Through the Data in Emergency Hub (DIEM), FAO will continue to provide a regularly updated and highly accessible picture of food insecurity in fragile environments, support countries in undertaking multi-dimensional risk assessment/analysis and the design, implementation and monitoring of, national agricultural DRR policies, plans, and programmes to increase the resilience of agrifood systems. FAO will work to tackle food crises through the Global Network Against Food Crisis.

- **UNDCO** will work collaboratively to ensure technical expertise is provided to Resident Coordinators and UN Country Teams to inform the programme cycle.

- **UNDP** has made risk-informing the development process a cornerstone of its Framework for Delivering Developing Solutions in crisis affected countries and is

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1 UNICEF requested that Recommendation 2 is framed in ways that emphasize the leading role of Member States.
prepared to implement the approach in a joint-up effort with UN partners, in its role as conveyor, knowledge broker and technical capacity aggregator.

- **UNEP** noted that focus should be on the most vulnerable communities, where climate-related displacement and migration still warrants additional support. UNEP also highlighted the importance of collaboration across humanitarian, development and peacebuilding spheres, as opportunities to Build Back Better and greener are missed. In that sense, UNEP stressed the need for comprehensive risk management to include Nature-based Solutions.

- **UN-Habitat** will continue to work to mainstream risk awareness across its own development and humanitarian actions.

- **UNOOSA** will continue to lead efforts to improve access to space-based resources and satellite imagery data. UNOOSA will seek funding for the joint procurement and broad sharing with national actors of satellite data whenever needed, from early warning to response and to rebuilding efforts, across all countries.

- **UNOPS** will support risk-informed infrastructure development in collaboration with UN programming processes, particularly in fragile situations through long-term strategic planning.

- **WFP** will support the integration of DRR in food security programming, relevant programming through assisting people affected by disasters and advocating for the need to enable a better combination and financing of more strategic DRR investment relevant funding across humanitarian, development, and climate action.

- **WHO** stressed the need to strengthen collective capacities to act ahead of predicted hazards to prevent or reduce impacts of emergencies before they fully unfold, especially in protracted humanitarian settings, where the cumulative impact of multiple concurrent emergencies can push vulnerable communities beyond their coping capacities.

Preliminary indication was provided by: UNICEF to continue co-leading this recommendation; UN-Habitat to act as a co-leading entity specifically in relation to urban areas; WFP to advocate for increased access to DRR and adaptation financing in fragile contexts.

**Recommendation 3: Support efforts related to investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience and reforming the financial system to better consider climate change, the environment, and other risks.**

Recommendation 3 was approved by UN entities. Contributions from UN entities to advance this UN SLG recommendation include:

- **FAO** stands ready to support Member States to develop a global taxonomy and methodology for disaster risk reduction-related public expenditures in the agriculture sector, and internalizing nature and food risks in financial decisions. FAO will support the development of a resilience taxonomy and other mechanisms that can enable the scaling-up of capital market investments. Furthermore, FAO has committed at least
20% of overall emergency funds to anticipatory action by 2025, utilizing FAO’s Special Fund for Emergency and Rehabilitation Activities.

- **IFAD** will support countries to access and mobilize climate finance from various sources, while advocating for an increased allocation of climate finance towards DRR. IFAD will also utilize its Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme and Inclusive Green Financing Initiative.

- **UNCTAD** will continue to work to ensure accessible and affordable finance is available to avert, minimize and recover from Loss and Damage and enhance resilience, with emphasis on supporting countries at high risk of debt distress. UNCTAD will work to expand affordable financing options offered by international financial institutions, and the development of financial structures for disaster risk reduction private investment in a way that maximizes development outcomes and economic stability.

- **UNDP** will utilize their Risk Anticipation Hub to strengthen investments in strategic foresight to manage systemic risks. UNDP expressed their support to many of the Integrated National Financing Frameworks (INFFs) and risk insurance organizations as part of the Sustainable Finance Hub. UNDP also highlighted that they have started to map out how to inject financing tools to leverage private and public investment in risk reduction.

- **UNEP** noted how partnering with International Financial Institutions and the finance sector can enhance UN capacity to influence risk-informed programming and investments. UNEP also recommended engaging more systematically with UNRCo’s and UNCTs to support local governance, while also partnering with financial institutions.

- **UN-Habitat** suggested that a global coalition will be required to make progress on this recommendation given the complexity of such an ambitious goal.

- **UNHCR** intends to leverage the Global Refugee Forum 2023 to mobilize climate financing for adaptation and disaster risk reduction for highly vulnerable displaced populations, hosts and countries of origin.

- **UNU** will support the development of methodologies and best practices to assess multi-dimensional and systemic risks and develop methods to use these assessments to inform finance-related decisions.

- **WFP** will support countries to access climate finance to strengthen systems for climate and disaster risk financing and insurance (CDRFI). Building on its expertise in making solutions for anticipatory action and climate risk insurance work for vulnerable communities, WFP will support the scaling-up of CDRFI solutions in the humanitarian and disaster management sector.

Recommendation 4 and its sub-recommendations were approved by UN entities. UN Women indicated that a stronger and more explicit focus on gender equality and gender responsiveness in the title of Recommendation 4 would have been welcomed, reaffirming the
importance of specificity, rather than combining groups under the term ‘inclusion’. In this regard, UN Women affirmed the wording of Recommendation 4.2.

Contributions from UN entities to advance this UN SLG recommendation include:

- **UNCTAD** is working with a range of partners to advance technical and policy measures to facilitate risk assessment, adaptation, DRR and resilience-building for critical transport infrastructure, in particular in vulnerable SIDS; and to assist African countries in reducing their vulnerability in the agriculture and fisheries sectors to climate change impacts and weather-extremes.
- **UNDP** is working with a range of partners to develop coherent policy and programmatic offers to support cities and local communities ensure complementarity of efforts across different administrative levels, sectors and stakeholders.
- **UNV** remains committed to leveraging UN Volunteers and UN Community and National Volunteers to support localization of inclusive and integrated disaster and climate risk reduction and resilience building.

Contributions from UN entities to advance each of the three sub-recommendations are listed below:

**Recommendation 4.1. Scale up and systematize an all-of-society approach by strengthening inclusion and applying a human-rights approach to disaster risk reduction to leave no one behind.**

- **UNHCR** intends to support Regional and National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategies that are inclusive of displaced populations and coherent with National Adaptation Plans. UNHCR is also working with UNDRR to contribute to an updated global mapping and review of disaster risk reduction strategies to inform human mobility-inclusive risk governance.

**Recommendation 4.2. Enable gender-responsive disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.**

- **FAO** reaffirmed its commitment to join forces with partners to support the development of a Gender Action Plan for the Sendai Framework and to closing gender gap in agriculture.
- **UNCCD** noted the inclusion of gender concerns into The Drought Initiative.
- **UNESCO** stressed that gender equality is a priority and invited UN Women and UNDRR to participate in an event in September 2023 to incorporate gender perspectives in national policies and programmes in Africa.
- **UN Women** stressed how the MTR SF reveals how gender equality has been lagging, as has data disaggregation by sex. They welcome the creation of a Gender Action Plan, noting that this has been called for in other forums in addition to the MTR SF.
- **WFP** will focus Disaster Risk Reduction efforts on food-insecure populations, with a view on minimizing and preventing humanitarian crises in the wake of more frequent and intense climate extremes
Recommendation 4.3. Scale up and systematize child-responsive disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.

- **FAO** stands ready to advance work on integrating child and youth-centred DRR and climate change adaptation in agrifood systems.
- **UNESCO** intends to support this recommendation through its youth networks in Asia-Pacific, the Caribbean, and Africa, which support young professionals to find solutions to reduce disaster risk.
- **UNICEF** highlighted that, to overcome the lack of information on progress related to child-responsive DRR activities under the Sendai Framework, there should be a concrete activity under Recommendation 4.3 to facilitate the development of a UN system-wide reporting mechanism on child and youth disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation activities, via the inclusion of indicators under the UN Plan of Action reporting.

Preliminary indication was provided by UN Women and UNICEF to co-lead recommendation 4 and associated sub-recommendations; UNHCR to support Recommendation 4 specifically in relation to inclusive DRR and climate change adaptation measures.

**Recommendation 5: Maximize efforts around strengthening multi-hazard early warning systems**

Recommendation 5 was approved by UN entities. Contributions from UN entities to advance this UN SLG recommendation include:

- Numerous UN entities shared their support and specific contributions to the UN Secretary General’s EW4All initiative, including specifically:
  - **FAO** contributed to the Executive Action Plan, input to the development of global implementation strategies and workplans, and participated in the launch. FAO stands ready to support the initiative moving forward, specifically with regard to ensuring warnings lead to anticipatory action, with predictable, flexible, pre-arranged financing mechanisms in place ahead of forecasted shocks, which FAO sees as critical in the agriculture sector to reduce damages and losses and safeguard/protect agricultural livelihoods and food systems.
  - **UNESCO** is contributing by supporting countries to develop early warning systems for a range of hazards, leveraging its scientific experts through their intergovernmental scientific programme.
  - **UNHCR** intends to support the initiative by leveraging the Global Refugee Forum 2023, and ensure the inclusion of refugees and other displaced people and their host countries and communities.
UNOOSA intends to facilitate access and use of space-based technologies for the EW4All initiative and will launch a publication on space technologies for Early Warning by the end of 2023.

WMO is working in collaboration with UNDRR and key partners to roll-out EW4All in 30 countries for the initial year. WMO will work with Resident Coordinators to deliver infrastructure, processes and communication networks between disaster risk management agencies, meteorological services and governments.

A number of agencies underlined their support for the initiative, including IOM, UNECE, and UNOHRLLS.

- **UNECE** stands ready to support Member States to adopt multi-hazard/risk approach particularly in regard to Natech events, and is in the process of developing a joint guidance on Natech Risk Management with OECD and the EU Joint Research Centre.

- **UNEP** called for a multi-hazard approach on early warning systems investment, as well as concrete actions to strengthen observational networks, LDCs and SIDS to support early action and preparedness.

- **UNESCO** is working through their Tsunami Ready Recognition programme, launched a Tsunami Ready Coalition, and have partnered with the private sector to develop a chatbot powered by artificial intelligence to ensure better communication between the authorities and the local population when a disaster next strikes East Africa, among other initiatives.

- **UNICEF** stands ready to support all aspects of planning and implementation on early warning systems, including by incorporating the specific needs of children and young people into them.

- **UNOCHA** emphasized the value of anticipatory action, its work on translating early warning into early action, and the importance of common risk analysis and the role of Resident Coordinators in this regard.

- **UNOHRLLS** is undertaking a study on multi-hazard early warning systems, for consideration by the General Assembly. This will involve all relevant United Nations Development Systems and other relevant stakeholders, focus on existing arrangements, lessons learned and gaps.

- **UNOPS** stands ready to support all aspects of planning and implementation on early warning systems.

- **WFP** is engaged in all 4 pillars of the EW4All initiative and stands ready to connect early warnings with disaster preparedness, anticipatory action, and pre-arranged financing systems for food insecure populations.

- **WHO** called for a better integration of disease early warning systems and the voice of public health in multi-hazard early warning systems, as well as the integration of biological hazards into National Disaster Risk Management Strategies. WHO stands ready to support health emergency preparedness and response gaps and to strengthen pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response, as well as obligations under the **International Health Regulations (2005)**.

- **WMO**, in close coordination with UNDRR, is working with the Green Climate Fund to scale-up Climate Risk & Early Warning Systems (CREWS) investments. WMO launched the Systemic Observations Financing Facility (SOFF) with UNDP and UNEP, establishing a fund on infrastructure development for early warning systems.
Further reflections

The Chair also asked for reflections on the overall recommendations, and on accountability and monitoring. A summary is provided below.

Feedback relating to all five recommendations includes the following:

- **ILO** committed to support the implementation of the recommendations, focusing on three priorities: (i) the integration of ILO standards, including fundamental principles and rights at work, in DRR and recovery strategies, especially in critical areas such as infrastructure development, including through public employment programmes, and enterprise support as well as business continuity plans; (ii) the collaboration with the private sector, particularly business organizations and trade unions, to help create a responsive environment for disaster risk reduction; and (iii) the fostering of synergies among international frameworks, including the recent work and social justice agenda, building partnerships and supporting the mainstreaming of DRR strategies in national development plans.

- **IOM** reiterated its commitment to ensuring that human mobility linked to climate hazards is well addressed at local and national levels, and to increasing its support for climate change adaptation action measures to minimize displacement and strengthen resilience.

- **UNCTAD** shared that the recommendations would benefit from more explicit inclusion of trade and transport as well as capacity-building.

- **UNDP** highlighted the need for continuous advocacy and sharing of concrete good practice examples for an effective implementation of the UN SLG recommendations.

- **UNEP** called for the recommendations to recognize the interconnections between people and planet.

- **WFP** and **IOM** called for further alignment of the UN SLG with the work of the UNFCCC, specifically on developments under the Transitional Committee on Loss and Damage financing.

- **WFP** also stressed the importance to keep integrating disaster risk reduction with the overall climate action agenda to catalyse stronger partnerships and financial integration between humanitarian, development, and climate action.

Accountability and monitoring

- **IFAD** expressed its commitment to building and reporting on which actions work and which do not in resilience building, disaster risk reduction and climate action.

- **UNEC** believes that established monitoring systems within the UN system provide appropriate accountability, including: UN Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience, UNECE’s national implementation reporting instruments, and reporting through the UNECE Regional Forum on Sustainable Development.

- **UNEP** recommended that concrete actions under each recommendation be devised alongside a specific timeframe, monitored, and reported on by UN entities.
• **UN-Habitat** supports maintaining the current reporting cycle, but suggests adding a more flexible reporting framework, together with additional efforts to create monitoring databases in collaboration with all UN SLG members.

### 4. Conclusion and next steps

A summary of the discussions and confirmation of the proposed ways forward in finalizing the 2030 UN SLG recommendations was provided by the Chair. This included confirmation that there is overall agreement on the recommendations, and that UN entities were invited to share any additional suggestions to the draft 2030 UN SLG recommendations before the end of May 2023. UN entities were also encouraged to provide written confirmation of their intention to co-lead or support the recommendations.

The UN DRR FPG were tasked to develop a timeline to finalize the UN SLG recommendations, noting the intention for the process to finalize the recommendations to commence in June 2023, with an envisioned closure and endorsement in October 2023.

The Chair proposed to use the occasion of the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction in October 2023, focusing on ‘Fighting Inequality for a Resilient Future’, to endorse and socialize the 2030 UN SLG recommendations.

It was indicated that the date of the 2024 UN SLG meeting will be confirmed in due course and that it is anticipated to be held in July in the margins of the 2024 High-level Political Forum (HLPF).

In closing the 8th meeting of the UN SLG, the Chair conveyed her appreciation for the richness and breath of the contributions made by UN entities, and their continued support to develop a joint understanding on concrete priorities for the UN system for the next seven years.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item 1: Welcome and Reflections</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>08:00-08:05</strong></td>
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<td><strong>08:05-08:10</strong></td>
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**Item 2: Main findings and recommendations of the Midterm Review on the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction: Partnership opportunities for the UN system to accelerate resilience building**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>08:10-08:45</strong></th>
<th>Reflections by Governments and stakeholders on the role of UN System entities to move the main findings and recommendations of the Sendai Framework Midterm Review forward</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>H.E. Mr. Mitch Fifield</strong>, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations, and <strong>H.E. Mr. Armanatha C. Nasir</strong>, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Indonesia to the United Nations</td>
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<td><strong>Mr. Gino Van Begin</strong>, Secretary General, ICLEI</td>
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<td><strong>Ms. Jekulin Lipi</strong>, Co-Focal Point, UNDRR Stakeholder Engagement Mechanism and representative of the Sendai Children and Youth Stakeholder Group</td>
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**Item 3: Role of the UN system to implement the findings and recommendations of the Midterm Review on the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>08:45-10:45</strong></th>
<th>Interactive Session: Reflections from UN SLG meeting participants on UN system efforts and priorities to strengthen the UN System approach to reducing risks for building resilience</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mr. Guy Bernard Ryder</strong>, Under-Secretary-General for Policy, Executive Office of the Secretary-General (EOSG): <em>How can recommendations to the MTR SF inform key transitions to accelerate the implementation of the SDGs and the Secretary-General’s Our Common Agenda?</em></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Ms. Tiziana Bonapace</strong>, Director, Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction Division, UNESCAP: <em>Leveraging regional coordination mechanisms to implement UN SLG recommendations</em></td>
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</table>
Mr. Didier Trebucq, Resident Coordinator, United Nations Multi-Country Office for Barbados and Eastern Caribbean: Translating the UN SLG recommendations into concrete action at the country level

Ms. Paola Albrito, Director, UNDRR: 2030 UN SLG recommendations

During this interactive session, the chair will invite all UN SLG meeting participants to reflect on the role of the UN SLG in implementing the MTR SF findings and recommendations, and to provide feedback on the draft 2030 UN SLG recommendations.

UN entities that would like to take the floor have a maximum of three minutes. Participants wishing to intervene in the discussion may do so by requesting the floor. Reflections can also be shared by online participants in the chat box or by sending an email to UNDRR. All written and oral interventions will be captured in the meeting minutes.

Guiding questions:

1. Do you agree with the proposed UN SLG recommendations for the next seven years?

2. What would be concrete ways to operationalize on the UN SLG recommendations?
   a. What would you as a member of the UN SLG do to ensure implementation of the recommendations?
   b. For which recommendation(s) would your entity engage as lead or supporting entity?
   c. What would be an appropriate accountability mechanism, including monitoring and reporting?

10:45-10:50 Endorse way forward in finalizing the 2023-2030 UN SLG recommendations

Item 4: AOB

10:50-10:55 Agree on the date for the 9th annual meeting of the UN SLG

Item 5: Wrap-up and Conclusion

10:55-11:00 Closing remarks by UN SLG Chair
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CTBTO</td>
<td>Ms. Zeinabou Mindaoudou Souley, Director of the International Data Centre</td>
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<td>DPPA</td>
<td>Ms. Awa Dabo, Deputy Head of PBSO</td>
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<td>FAO</td>
<td>Mr. Rein Paulsen, Director, FAO Office of Emergencies and Resilience</td>
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<tr>
<td>IAEA</td>
<td>Mr. Toshio Kaneko, Special Assistant to the Director General</td>
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<td>ICAO</td>
<td>Ms. Thilly De Bodt, Head of the Strategic Planning, Coordination and Partnerships (SPCP) Office</td>
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<td>IFAD</td>
<td>Ms. Jyotsna Puri, Associate Vice-President, Strategy and Knowledge Department</td>
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<td>ILO</td>
<td>Ms. Beate Andrees, Special Representative to the United Nations and Director of ILO in New York</td>
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<td>IMO</td>
<td>Mr. William Azuh, Deputy Director</td>
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<td>IOM</td>
<td>Mr. Pär Liljert, Director of IOM New York Liaison Office to the United Nations</td>
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<td>ITU</td>
<td>Ms. Vanessa Gray, Head of Environment and Emergency Telecommunications Division</td>
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<td>UNOCHA</td>
<td>Ms. Sofie Garde-Thomle, Deputy Director, West and Central Africa Section</td>
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<td>UN Women</td>
<td>Ms. Sarah Hendricks, Director, Programme, Policy and Intergovernmental Division</td>
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<td>UNCCD</td>
<td>Mr. Melchiade Bukuru, Director, UNCCD Office New York</td>
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<td>UNCTAD</td>
<td>Ms. Regina Asariotis, Chief, Policy and Legislation Section, Division on Technology and Logistics</td>
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<td>UNDCO</td>
<td>Mr. Oscar Fernandez, Assistant Secretary-General</td>
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<td>UNDESA</td>
<td>Ms. Maria Francesca Spatolisano, Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Co-ordination and Inter-Agency Affairs</td>
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<td>UNDP</td>
<td>Ms. Asako Okai, Assistant Secretary-General and Director of UNDP’s Crisis Bureau</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNDRR</td>
<td>Ms. Mami Mizutori, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction and Head of UNDRR</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNDRR</td>
<td>Ms. Paola Albrito, Director</td>
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<td>UNECE</td>
<td>Mr. Marco Keiner, Director, UNECE Environment Division</td>
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<td>UNECLAC</td>
<td>Mr. Omar Bello, Economic Affairs Officer</td>
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<td>UNEP</td>
<td>Ms. Ligia Noronha, Assistant Secretary-General and Head of UNEP New York Office</td>
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<tr>
<td>UN-Habitat</td>
<td>Mr. Michal Mlynar, Deputy Executive Director</td>
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<td>UNHCR</td>
<td>Mr. Andrew Harper, Special Advisor on Climate Action</td>
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<td>UNICEF</td>
<td>Mr. Ted Chaiban, Deputy Executive Director for Humanitarian Action</td>
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<td>UNOHRLLS</td>
<td>Ms. Heidi Schroderus-Fox, Director</td>
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<td>UNOOSA</td>
<td>Mr. Lorant Czaran, Chief, Vienna Branch, UN-SPIDER Programme</td>
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<td>UNU</td>
<td>Ms. Zita Sebesvari, Deputy Director, Institute for Environment and Human Security</td>
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<td>UNV</td>
<td>Ms. Naoual Driouich, Chief of UN System Affairs &amp; New York Office</td>
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<td>UPU</td>
<td>Mr. Hashim Elhaj, Programme Coordinator, Arab Region and Emergencies and Postal Resilience</td>
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<td>WFP</td>
<td>Mr. Gernot Laganda, Director of Climate and Disaster Risk Reduction</td>
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<td>WHO</td>
<td>Dr. Kai von Harbou, Health Emergency Officer (on behalf of Dr. Stella Chungong, Director for Health Security Preparedness)</td>
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<tr>
<td>WIPO</td>
<td>Ms. Ola Zahran, Director of the WIPO Office in New York</td>
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<tr>
<td>WMO</td>
<td>Mr. Paul Egerton, Director of the Cabinet Office of WMO’s Secretary-General</td>
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<tr>
<td>World Bank</td>
<td>Mr Jason Zhengrong Lu, Lead Operations Officer, GFDRR</td>
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**Guest speakers**

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