2030 Recommendations of the United Nations Senior Leadership Group on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience
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Introduction

In 2016, the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) endorsed the revised United Nations 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 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and the Paris Agreement, among other international agreements.

The UN Plan of Action is an important tool to maximize the joint impact of United Nations system actions that support countries in strengthening disaster and climate risk-informed development, humanitarian planning and investment, with a view to advancing human rights and leaving no one behind.

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

In 2023, the main findings and recommendations of the midterm review of the implementation of the Sendai Framework (MTR SF) highlighted emerging trends and remaining gaps and offered a set of solutions for needed transformations, policy adjustments and new implementation modalities related to the Sendai Framework and beyond. Although progress has been made towards achieving Sendai Framework priorities, as the MTR SF highlights, progress is not consistent across countries and is far from enough.

Furthermore, per the findings of the MTR SF, the failure to place risk reduction at the heart of current societal, political and economic choices, not to mention the global financial system, means that risk creation is outstripping risk reduction.

The systemic nature, speed and scale of spread of twenty-first century risks are increasingly overwhelming risk governance at all levels. Access to disaster data and applicable risk knowledge, including multi-hazard early warning systems, remains inadequate. The increased economic costs of disasters are not matched with financing for disaster risk reduction (DRR), and challenges remain in quantifying risk-informed preventive financing embedded in public and private investments. Disaster risk continues to be externalized throughout the global financial system, to the detriment of humans and ecosystems, especially in poor and marginalized areas.

As recovery from the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic continues, compounded by the impacts of the climate crisis, greater effort is needed to identify, prevent and reduce risks before they manifest as disasters. This will enable the outcomes, goals and priorities for action of the Sendai Framework to be achieved, and in turn lead to risk-informed sustainable development.

The 2023 UN SLG meeting reflected on United Nations system entities’ roles in accelerating Sendai Framework implementation over the next seven years, taking into consideration the main findings and recommendations of the MTR SF for accelerated progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It also took into account the outcomes of the high-level meeting of the MTR SF and the Political Declaration that it has adopted.

The set of recommendations will be valid until 2030. The recommendations have been drafted in a consultative process which started with the mapping of the MTR SF recommendations against the priorities identified in the report on the contributions of United Nations entities for the MTR SF.

Links to existing global mechanisms, processes and initiatives were also considered, as were links to previous UN SLG recommendations, the SDGs and Our Common Agenda priorities. Based on this mapping, priority areas were identified to form the basis of the 2030 UN SLG recommendations.
The 2030 UN SLG recommendations have been prepared taking into account the following:

- A focus on system-wide work across the full scope of hazards and risks, as reflected in the Sendai Framework\(^1\) and in support of implementing the SDGs.

- Greater country-level implementation (moving from policy to action), while recognizing that some global initiatives that can transform country-level work are also required.

- The need to build upon the UN Plan of Action and previous UN SLG recommendations.

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In the Political Declaration of the MTR SF, Member States call upon relevant United Nations entities, within their respective mandates, to:

- Enhance support for the implementation of the Sendai Framework and the calls to action contained in the Political Declaration.

- Integrate DRR and risk considerations in the Common Country Analysis and in United Nations planning and programming documents, including the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, in consultation with host governments and in line with national policies, priorities and needs.

- Enhance technical support, when requested, for the development of risk reduction standards, legislation and regulations; comprehensive risk governance; data collection, disaggregation and monitoring; risk analytics; de-risking investment; and accessible multi-hazard early warning systems.

Based on the findings and recommendations of the MTR SF and Member States’ call upon United Nations entities, and in recognition of the cross-cutting importance of DRR for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the UN SLG commits to supporting the following priorities until 2030:

### 2030 UN SLG recommendations

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

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

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.

4. Boost inclusive disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation measures.
   
   4.1. Scale up and systematize an all-of-society approach by strengthening inclusion and applying a human rights-based approach to disaster risk reduction to leave no one behind.
   
   4.2. Enable gender-responsive disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.
   
   4.3. Scale up and systematize child-responsive disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.

5. Maximize efforts around strengthening multi-hazard early warning systems.

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\(^1\) Natural and human-induced hazards, as well as related environmental, technological and biological hazards and risks (paragraph 15, A/RES/69/283).
United Nations entities will continue to strengthen Member States’ risk governance capacities with the aim of building resilience by averting, reducing and addressing losses and damages. Special attention will be given to further developing coherent mechanisms for risk governance at the global and regional levels that support national and local risk reduction.

The United Nations system has the unique opportunity to harness its sectoral expertise and apply a risk lens in all aspects of its work. Multiple stakeholders, within and across sectors and scales, will assume responsibility for risk reduction, with effective legal and regulatory frameworks, policies, plans and resources at all levels and for all hazards and risks supporting this. In this way, targeted and adaptable approaches will help reduce and avoid the creation of new systemic risks, while also supporting risk-informed decision-making and investments.

Global governance is not equipped to manage the complexities of current global and catastrophic risks, nor the irreversible impacts of breaching planetary boundaries. United Nations system support will gradually move from strengthening conventional risk governance towards capacities to govern multidimensional and systemic risk, considering the changing risk context.

2 Including in sustainable development, poverty eradication, climate change mitigation and adaptation, water, biodiversity conservation and restoration, nature-based solutions, agriculture, food security and nutrition (including famine prevention), energy security, just transitions and access, sustainable trade, health (including pandemic prevention, preparedness and response), disaster-induced human mobility, urban and rural development, transport and infrastructure, among others.
Recommendation 2

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

Support for risk-informed planning and programming has been a priority since the first set of UN SLG recommendations was adopted. United Nations country teams and humanitarian country teams will be supported in accelerating their efforts to integrate risk considerations and resilience-building into relevant development, humanitarian and peacebuilding planning processes, including the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks, the Common Country Analysis, the Humanitarian Programme Cycle and peacebuilding planning processes, in a coherent and well-coordinated manner across sectors and at different scales.

The application of a multidimensional risk analysis and strategic foresight, will strengthen the implementation of existing planning frameworks and instruments, enabling long-term thinking, anticipatory action and more forward-looking policies and programmes.

Closer links between sustainable development, humanitarian and peace actions will be encouraged, focusing specifically on countries in highly fragile contexts, including through collaboration with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Task Force 4 on Humanitarian-Development Collaboration and its Linkages to Peace. Entry points for fostering these closer linkages will be in line with the United Nations Common Guidance on Helping Build Resilient Societies, including, for example, ongoing efforts to collect and promote evidence-based data on economic and non-economic losses and damages, adopting a sustainable response and nature-positive recovery.

This requires enhancing in-house skills and resources to be able to adequately support Member States.

To accelerate the implementation of the SDGs and the Sendai Framework, and in the light of growing climate-related risks, there is an urgent need to enhance, align and complement efforts at all levels with the priorities of other international frameworks, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Paris Agreement, the New Urban Agenda, the New Agenda for Peace, the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries, the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, as well as the Secretary-General’s Call to Action for Human Rights and Our Common Agenda.
Recommendation 3

Support efforts to invest in disaster risk reduction for resilience and reform the financial system to better consider climate change, the environment and other risks.

Financing risk reduction is a top priority and requires leveraging the full spectrum of pre- and post-disaster financial resources from public, private, domestic and international sources in a way that maximizes development outcomes and economic stability. This includes reorientating international assistance from being reactive to preventive with strategic foresight, mainstreaming risk considerations into public budgets and developing incentives and financial structures for private resources in both risk reduction and risk-informed investments (e.g. blended finance, resilience bonds and impact investment funds). For vulnerable developing countries, ensuring better access to affordable finance, including in the form of grants rather than loans, is key to reducing and managing disaster risks exacerbated by increasing climate variability and change.

To this end, United Nations entities will build on the momentum in capital markets for sustainable investing (e.g. climate risk disclosure) and work with international financial institutions and the financial sector to promote DRR investments and tools. This includes those that allow for synergies between DRR and climate objectives, such as leveraging net-zero commitments by the public and private sectors towards nature-based solutions, which yield multiple dividends for mitigation, adaptation and resilience, as well as sustainable development more broadly.

The United Nations system will also advocate for access to and co-benefits of DRR, climate and SDG financing, and will continue to support awareness-raising of development finance, including financial products for disaster risk management.

It will also continue to promote the tracking of DRR actions, including through the development and application of a global taxonomy and methodology for risk reduction-related public expenditure. Additionally, the United Nations system will support the development of a resilience taxonomy and other mechanisms that can enable the scaling-up of capital market investments.

Policymakers will be supported to: (i) properly assess multidimensional and systemic risks and use this assessment to inform investment-related decisions; (ii) ensure that financial policies and instruments contribute to reducing risks and provide accessible and affordable funding, particularly for those most at risk; and (iii) develop integrated national financing frameworks that support DRR objectives, and/ or dedicated DRR or risk financing strategies (including when there is no integrated national financing framework process in place). The UN SLG will foster coordinated support by different United Nations entities to countries for this purpose.
Recommendation 4

Boost inclusive disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation measures.

The United Nations system will support national and local governments to enhance inclusive DRR and climate change adaptation. This recommendation focuses particularly on the following:

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

To accelerate the implementation of the Sendai Framework, an all-of-society and human rights-based approach to DRR will be scaled up and fully considered. Such an approach will foster equal and effective engagement of women, children, young people and youth, older persons, persons with disabilities, Indigenous Peoples, local communities and displaced populations, among others, in all relevant forums, agendas and processes, as well as in the design and implementation of risk-informed decision-making and investment, DRR and climate change mitigation and adaptation policies, plans and programmes, and measures to address loss and damage.

Strengthening the collection, reporting and analysis of data disaggregated by sex, age and disability will continue to be a key enabler. The United Nations system will enhance its support in this area of work, including through training.

United Nations entities will engage with and mobilize the expertise of academia, scientific and research entities and networks, businesses, training institutions, professional associations, urban bodies and cities, private sector financing institutions, the media and civil society organizations in working to achieve the 2030 UN SLG recommendations.

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

The United Nations system will facilitate the development of a Gender Action Plan for the Sendai Framework. Such a plan will guide Member States in accelerating gender-responsive DRR and climate change adaptation actions in line with General Recommendation No. 37 on gender-related dimensions of disaster risk reduction in the context of climate change of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. United Nations entities will continue to progress the recommendations that are reflected in the report on gender equality and women’s empowerment and leadership in DRR.

4.3 Scale up and systematize child-responsive disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation

The United Nations system will prioritize the implementation of system-wide, joined up approaches to scale up and systematize DRR and climate change adaptation that is responsive to the needs of children and young people. This will include support for the development of a road map on child-responsive DRR for the Sendai Framework, which will include minimum standards to guide Member States through the scaling-up and systematization process.

Special attention will be given to strengthening the capacities of Member States and other stakeholders on child-responsive DRR and climate change adaptation activities, maximizing partnerships and sharing technical expertise to inform, shape and influence DRR and climate change adaptation policies for children and young people. Furthermore, key services for children and young people will be more resilient to and prepared for disasters, including the following: social protection, education, health, nutrition, child protection and water, sanitation and hygiene. Children and young people will also be engaged and empowered in key disaster- and climate-related decision-making and actions.
Recommendation 5
Maximize efforts around strengthening multi-hazard early warning systems.

The United Nations system’s commitment to applying multi-hazard, multisectoral and transboundary approaches to accelerate the development and implementation of early warning systems has been prioritized in previous UN SLG recommendations. The United Nations system reaffirms its commitment to maximize efforts by jointly collaborating on the roll-out of the Early Warnings for All (EW4All) initiative and other partnership efforts to strengthen multi-hazard early warning systems, particularly in countries that are most at risk and where early warning gaps are widest.

This support could include strengthening the data ecosystem to inform and assess the performance of early warnings, training, applying appropriate metrics and approaches to understand early warning coverage and effectiveness across the four pillars of early warning systems, as well as increasing related communication channels, capacity development and finance. The United Nations system will also support efforts that ensure early warnings lead to early/anticipatory action, with predictable, flexible, pre-arranged mechanisms in place. This will be done by leveraging the expertise of the scientific and academic communities, while also developing strong partnerships between disaster risk management agencies, observational networks, meteorological services, governments, civil society and local populations.

In particular, in the context of the EW4All initiative, the following activities will be planned:

- Country-level implementation guided by early warning pillar action plans.
- A stakeholder mapping exercise to map the partners engaged in the EW4All initiative, distil their roles in the initiative and determine the pillars and processes in which they are engaged and at what level.
- The development of a strategy on engagement with civil society actors, the private sector and academia, for which criteria should be developed on differentiating partners along the different tiers of engagement.
- The organization of multi-stakeholder forums to enhance national and international coordination mechanisms.
- The development and establishment of a legal and institutional framework to leverage an inclusive participatory approach and ensure that early warnings lead to early and anticipatory actions, including for transboundary risk management.
- Cross-sectoral disaster loss and damage accounting, including to the socioeconomic and environmental system, combined with a DRR cost-benefit analysis.
- The development of national and regional strategies for the implementation of user-tailored early warning and early awareness and alert systems, based on a resilience dividend approach.
Operationalization of the 2030 UN SLG recommendations

Inter-agency consultations were conducted in 2023 to compile an overview of ongoing inter-agency initiatives and contributions from individual United Nations entities to the 2030 UN SLG recommendations in order to identify gaps that United Nations entities can address. This informed the development of a joint action plan, which will be updated on a regular basis.

Inter-agency task teams will support the implementation of the activities identified, with co-lead United Nations entities ensuring their timely implementation. Co-lead entities will also be responsible for convening regular meetings, facilitating reporting and monitoring, updating on implementation as required and acting as a representative in United Nations Disaster Risk Reduction Focal Points Group meetings. Contributing United Nations entities will actively participate in task team meetings and engage in the implementation of specific activities (e.g. by sharing relevant input and feedback). Task teams will ensure activities are aligned with United Nations system-wide efforts aimed at achieving the SDGs, including the six transitions and 12 SDG high impact initiatives, which will help accelerate actions towards meeting the SDGs.

Progress on implementing the action plan of the 2030 UN SLG recommendations will be reported in the context of the coordination mechanisms around the UN Plan of Action that are convened by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. This includes regular updates during meetings of the UN SLG and the United Nations Disaster Risk Reduction Focal Points Group, the inclusion of a chapter in the annual UN Plan of Action progress report and the promotion of impact stories.