

# UNDRR Parliamentarian Engagement Strategy 2022-2025

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**UNDRR**

UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

# 1. INTRODUCTION

Since 2020, the socio-economic impact of disasters on lives and development gains has become starkly clear. Over the past two years, the world has seen devastating floods, droughts, extreme heat, and other hazards combined with vulnerabilities aggravated by the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in severe health and economic impacts. The pandemic is estimated to have pushed an additional 97 million people into poverty in 2020 alone, and – in combination with extreme weather events – is increasing global hunger and setting back progress towards the achievement of the SDGs. By 2050, between 150 to 200 million people will be at risk of being forced to leave their homes due to desertification, rising sea levels and extreme weather conditions<sup>1</sup>. A warming planet will increase the intensity and frequency of disasters and extreme events, which are already at unprecedented levels.

The past two years have reminded the world what [the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030](#) is all about: risk is systemic and interconnected and addressing it requires new, more comprehensive, and multi-hazard risk approaches. We have worked in silos for too long, compartmentalizing knowledge and resources, focusing on immediate short-term ‘fixes’ rather than on long-term strategies to build resilience.

As UN Member States move forward with Agenda 2030, more focused, accelerated action is required to help countries identify the broad range of risks they face, and prevent and mitigate them.

The Sendai Framework clearly highlights the responsibility of Governments to drive risk reduction and prevention, by integrating DRR into national and local legislative and budgetary frameworks, promoting greater risk understanding and strengthen risk governance. Parliamentarians, using their power over legislation, monitoring and accountability and budgeting, have a fundamental role to play in building a more resilient world. The transformative nature of the 2030 Agenda and enhanced resilience therein requires parliamentarians to help voice citizens’ concerns, map how disasters affect different segments of society in different ways and ensure no one is left behind.

## **Areas of leadership for Parliamentarians in DRR include:**

- Development of DRR laws, frameworks and norms in support of national DRR strategies and risk-informed development.
- Fostering enabling environments for risk-informed investments through the integration of DRR into national and local budgets.
- Enhancing oversight and accountability in the implementation of national DRR policies by encouraging regular and mandatory reporting on DRR efforts.

- Building greater risk understanding and DRR coordination through Parliamentary engagement in national platforms for DRR, capacity building and knowledge-sharing.
- Raising awareness amongst peers and constituencies about the importance of DRR.
- Ensuring inclusive legislative processes that engage all stakeholders, particularly those most vulnerable to disasters.

The Parliamentary Engagement Strategy 2022-25 of [the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction \(UNDRR\)](#) supports the ambitious goals of the [UNDRR Strategic Framework 2022-25](#), to accelerate action on risk reduction, prevention and resilience (see box on accelerators below). A key component of the Strategy is to shift towards a more ‘institutionalized approach’, engaging stakeholders primarily through strategic partners as opposed to individual Parliamentarians.

The power of stakeholders as amplifiers, advocates and influencers is a key element of the UNDRR Strategic Framework and is crucial in forging strategic, impact-driven partnerships for DRR (see Strategic Objective 3: Catalyze Investment and Action in DRR through Partnerships and Engagement with Stakeholders). UNDRR will act as a convener and connector to key stakeholders, including parliamentarians, to leverage specific outreach capacities and expertise to strengthen risk informed decision-making.

The UNDRR Parliamentary Strategy 2022-25 builds upon UNDRR’s work with Parliamentarians, that has already been ongoing for more than a decade, and is guided by and builds upon [the Parliamentary Engagement Strategy 2020-21](#). The Parliamentary Strategy 2022-25 also responds to the 2018 [UNDRR Partnership Strategy](#) and interacts with the work of the [UNDRR Private Sector Initiative ARISE](#) and [the UNDRR Stakeholder Engagement Mechanism \(SEM\)](#). This Parliamentary Action Plan is aligned with the [UNDRR Strategic Framework 2022-25](#) and the UNDRR work programme 2022-23. This Action Plan is iterative and will evolve hand in hand with needs and available resources.<sup>2</sup>

The implementation of the Parliamentary Strategy and Action Plan is coordinated by the UNDRR Partnerships Branch, in close collaboration with the UNDRR Regional Offices. Collaboration with external partners, such as the Interparliamentary Union (IPU) in its role as the global Parliamentary focal point to engage with the United Nations, as well as with other global and regional Parliamentary networks and groups, is a critical element for achieving the Strategy’s goals.

<sup>1</sup> UNESCO, 2017; [https://www.womenforwater.org/uploads/7/7/5/1/77516286/migration\\_and\\_its\\_interdependencies\\_with\\_water\\_scarcity\\_gender\\_and\\_youth\\_employment\\_unesco\\_wwap\\_2017.pdf](https://www.womenforwater.org/uploads/7/7/5/1/77516286/migration_and_its_interdependencies_with_water_scarcity_gender_and_youth_employment_unesco_wwap_2017.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Collaboration with IPU is grounded in the Agreement between IPU and the United Nations: [https://ipu.org/sites/default/files/documents/2016\\_cooperation\\_agreement.pdf](https://ipu.org/sites/default/files/documents/2016_cooperation_agreement.pdf)

## 2. OVERARCHING GOAL AND ACTION AREAS OF THE PARLIAMENTARIAN ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY 2022-2025

COVID-19 and climate change have heightened awareness and driven concrete action by Parliaments across the globe in support of DRR, particularly on health and climate change risks. Turning the disaster into an opportunity, UNDRR will work with Parliamentarians to accelerate and intensify this new political commitment towards multi-hazard risk reduction.

### **Overarching goal:**

Prevent the creation of new and reduce existing disaster risks and build resilience through legislative and budgetary action.

### **Expected Impact:**

Parliamentarians across the globe have a higher awareness of DRR and are undertaking concrete

actions to implement DRR into national strategies, legal, budgetary and regulatory frameworks.

### **Action Areas:**

1. Enhance legislation, planning and financing for DRR through the integration of DRR in national strategies, legal, budgetary and regulatory frameworks;
2. Engage parliamentarians in global and regional DRR mechanisms, policy processes and advocacy campaigns; and
3. Develop capacity and knowledge products for parliamentarians.



Parliamentary Hearing at United Nations: Building Political Support and Inclusive Responses to Sustainable Recovery

# 3. ACTION AREAS AND EXPECTED OUTCOMES OF THE PARLIAMENTARIAN ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY 2022-2025

## Action Area 1:

Enhance legislation, planning and financing for DRR through the integration of DRR in national strategies, legal, budgetary and regulatory frameworks

UNDRR will continue to work with a variety of entities to support the development of cross sectoral legal and budgetary frameworks for the implementation of DRR strategies and financing at regional and national levels.

A key vehicle to guide action will be the new '[UNDRR-IPU Parliamentarian Toolkit: Disaster Risk Reduction to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals](#)', launched in October 2021. The Parliamentarian toolkit reflects intensive consultations conducted with MPs and parliamentarian networks across the globe. It outlines 10 concrete actions Parliamentarians can take to influence and implement DRR policy, legal, financial and oversight frameworks, adapted to their country's context. UNDRR and IPU, as well as other global and regional parliamentarian partners, including the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF) and thematic parliamentarian groups, will collaborate to develop a set of targeted training sessions, tools and products to support Parliamentarians in implementing the toolkit actions.

Financing for risk reduction and risk-informed investment are key elements for effectively reducing risk. This requires both public and private financing, as well as investment decisions that integrate DRR considerations. A key focus over 2022-25 will be engaging parliamentarians in the implementation of the finance accelerator of the UNDRR 2022-25 Strategic Framework. This builds on UNDRR's achievements over the past years in integrating the Sendai Framework into global and regional policy processes on financing and investment, including the Financing for

Development Forum and Integrated National Financing Frameworks, as well as the EU Sustainable Financing Strategy and climate adaptation action plan. The implementation will include engaging Parliamentarians and regulators for the development of legal and regulatory frameworks for risk-informed financing and investment. It will also focus on encouraging public-private partnerships for resilient business models, supply chains and investment through closer collaboration between parliamentarian networks and the UNDRR private sector initiative ARISE.

At the regional level, through engagement with IPU, the European Parliament, the East Africa Legislative Assembly (EALA) of the East African Community, the African Union, the Pan-African Parliament and ParlAmericas, among other partners, knowledge on how to develop DRR laws and frameworks will be disseminated, ensuring greater participation and involvement of Parliamentarians in support of regional, national and local DRR legislation and budgets. These activities will be prioritized for engagement in countries where national DRR legislations are being reviewed or developed. Work will build on commitments made by policy and political leaders in 2021, including in the outcomes of the four [Regional Platforms for DRR](#) held in the Arab States, Africa, Americas and the Caribbean and Europe and Central Asia.

**Expected Outcome:** Parliamentarians actively engage in the integration of DRR in national strategies, legal, budgetary and regulatory frameworks.

## Action Area 2:

Engage parliamentarians in global and regional DRR mechanisms, policy processes and advocacy campaigns

Parliamentarians have demonstrated their power to sway public opinion to advance DRR, notably through their growing influence in high-level stakeholder processes. In this regard, UNDRR will explore the opportunity to engage Parliamentarians in the Sendai Framework's Mid-Term Review, requested by the UN General Assembly in December 2020 (UNGA resolution [A/RES/75/216](#) of 29 December 2020), through its existing partners. Parliamentarian inputs in the MTR SF, could showcase amongst others, DRR good practices, lesson learnt, and how to improve good governance within the context of DRR based on the recommendations of the UNDRR-IPU Toolkit for Parliamentarians.

UNDRR will also engage MPs in the Global and Regional Platforms for DRR. These platforms are critical components

of UNDRR's knowledge sharing and capacity development efforts to catalyze parliamentarian action and exchange on good practices, challenges and opportunities on DRR.

Last but not least, UNDRR will seek, facilitate and encourage engagement of Parliamentarians and Parliamentarian groups, primarily the IPU but also other groups such as the CVF Global Parliamentarian Group, GLOBE Legislators and Women Political Leaders as well as the IFRC, in key advocacy events, initiatives and campaigns. These include: MCR2030, UNDRR communication campaigns and International Day for DRR.

**Expected Outcome:** Parliamentarians promote and support DRR related mechanisms and policy processes.

### Action Area 3: Develop capacity and knowledge products for Parliamentarians

As the world aims to find transformative approaches to development, there is a rising demand for opportunities to build knowledge and understanding of DRR among Parliamentarians and their staff. In response to this need, UNDRR, together with the IPU as well as other global and regional Parliamentarian groups as appropriate, will develop and roll-out innovative DRR training and modules for parliamentarians, both as part of interactive parliamentarian peer-to-peer learning sessions and online. These tools will be based on existing knowledge products such as the UNDRR-IPU toolkit for parliamentarians. Specific focus will be placed on the continuation of UNDRR's work with regional parliamentarian groups to strengthen their capacity through webinars, capacity building events and the development of targeted knowledge products on the links between DRR, climate change and development.

Last but not least, gender equality and women's leadership in DRR are a key cross-cutting priority of the UNDRR Strategic Framework 2022-25. In collaboration with key partners, such as the Women's International Network for Disaster Risk Reduction (WIN) and the Women Political Leaders (WPL), UNDRR will seek to increase awareness and capacity of Parliamentarians and their staff on the benefits of women's equal political participation in DRR. This will include targeted capacity building events, involving women MPs in UNDRR global and regional events and policy processes, as well as creating greater collaboration between women leaders, youth and the private sector.

**Expected Outcome:** Enhanced capacity of parliamentarians across the globe and targeted knowledge products available to take concrete action on DRR and prevention in their national and local contexts.



Mozambique Recovers after Cyclones Idai and Kenneth

## 4. MONITORING AND REPORTING ON THE UNDRR PARLIAMENTARIAN ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY 2022-2025

UNDRR will capture the impact of its engagement with Parliamentarians through the following mechanisms:

- UN Member States progress reporting on national and local DRR strategies, and preparedness plans through the Sendai Framework Monitor;
- Statements by UN Member States at Global and Regional Platforms, with both qualitative and quantitative evidence of legislative action on DRR; and
- UNDRR and partner news stories and research evidence on Parliamentarian engagement and leadership.

The impact and outputs of the Strategy will be reported through an annual progress report, the UNDRR Annual Report, relevant reports of the UN Secretary-General and via UNDRR managed platforms and information dissemination channels (e.g., UNDRR Website, PreventionWeb, and UNDRR social media accounts).



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