

Ninth Arab Partnership Meeting for Disaster Risk Reduction



Outcome of the Ninth Arab Partnership Meeting for Disaster Risk Reduction

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21-23 December 2023

Background:

Following the adoption of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the mandate given by Member States to the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction "to support the implementation, follow-up and review of the Framework" through the preparation of periodic reviews on progress " (Article 48c), and since 2018, the UNDRR Regional Office for Arab States (ROAS) has organized eight multi-stakeholder regional coordination meetings under the title "Arab Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction Meetings". These meetings bring together Arab Governments, disaster risk reduction stakeholders, United Nations regional agencies and international organizations.

The biannual meetings of the Arab Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction aim to establish a forum for technical and operational deliberations on progress in the implementation of the Sendai Framework in the region, challenges and gaps. This includes facilitating regional discussion on innovative climate risk management solutions and integrating disaster risk reduction into the Arab region's sustainable development goals. These periodic discussions on implementation challenges, gaps and solutions are aimed at enriching the deliberations of the Arab Regional Platform's conferences.

Ninth Arab Partnership Meeting for Disaster Risk Reduction

The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) - Regional Office for Arab States (ROAS) held the Ninth Meeting of the Arab Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction from 21st to 23rd December 2023 in Alexandria, Egypt. In addition to the major objectives of the partnership meetings, the Ninth Arab Partnership Meeting for Disaster Risk Reduction aimed to identify the first step in the technical deliberations in preparation for the Sixth Arab Regional Platform for DRR to be hosted by the Government of Kuwait in October 2024. The meeting focused on discussions and agreements on robust sets of actions that have to be taken to implement the conclusions of the mid-term review of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Reduction, the African-Arab Conference on Science and Technology for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Global Resilience Forum, with a view to achieve an outline of the priority action plan 2025-2028 to be adopted by the Sixth Arab Regional Platform for DRR.

Day 1: Tuesday, 21 November 2023

Opening session:

The meeting was opened with a speech by Her Excellency Ms. Jacqueline Azar, Deputy Governor of Alexandria, in which she conveyed to the audience the greetings of the Governor who sets disaster risk reduction, strengthening partnerships and sharing experiences as a priority in Alexandria. She noted that risks were complex and regionally extended and that strong partnerships at the global level were essential and an important factor to the face disasters. She also noted that the COVID pandemic had highlighted the importance of effective response preparedness. Her Excellency expressed the Governorate's need to apply new techniques, GIS maps and anticipated population movements and its total readiness for partnerships in that regard. She also conveyed the Governorate's interest in following-up the meeting's outcomes and implementing the concrete actions that would emerge therefrom.

In his statement, Major General Mohamed Hijazi, Assistant Secretary-General for the Presidency of the Council of Ministers for Crisis and Disaster Affairs of the Arab Republic of Egypt, welcomed the participants and expressed the Egyptian Prime Minister's interest in the topic of disaster risk reduction and in lending all financial and logistical support to the participants during their stay in Egypt. He also expressed the Prime Minister's interest in the meeting and the implementation of its outcome at the national and regional levels, given that disaster risk reduction was an important pillar for sustainable development, stressing the importance of strengthening early warning mechanisms in the region and supporting capacity-building.

Mr. Mohamed Jrifia, Head of the Department of Sensitization, Training and Cooperation of the Ministry of the Interior of the Kingdom of Morocco, welcomed the participants and presented the objectives of the meeting which would accelerate the implementation of the Sendai Framework, the Rabat Declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction, the Priority Action Plan for 2021-2024, the calls for action from the regional conferences held during the year and the outcomes of the mid-term review of the Sendai Framework and examined how to reflect them at the Sixth Arab Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction. He was grateful for the efforts of the United Nations and the League of Arab States in supporting the Arab region in implementing the Sendai Framework and the Arab Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction 2030.

In his statement, Mr. Fadi El-Jannan, Deputy Head of the Regional Office for Arab States of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, expressed his gratitude to the Arab Republic of Egypt for hosting this meeting and to the Kingdom of Morocco for presiding over the first day of the meeting. He also thanked the representatives of the Sendai Framework's national focal points and the representatives of meteorological directorates, the local authorities, stakeholder groups, United Nations agencies and international organizations. The meeting came at a crucial time after the adoption of the political declaration on the mid-term review of the Sendai Framework and in preparation for the Sixth Arab Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction to underscore the collective commitment to strengthening disaster risk reduction in the Arab region. He also hobbled to the most significant effects of disasters in the Arab region this year, such as the Turkey and Syria earthquakes and Morocco earthquakes, which killed tens of thousands of people and destroyed infrastructure and buildings. and the Daniel storm in Libya, which caused the collapse of the two main dams on the small Wadi Derna River and swept away many buildings with their inhabitants, The record heatwaves recorded in many States have caused the burning of wildfires in Lebanon, Syria, Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia. In his speech, he then presented the most important areas of discussion at this meeting and the two-day agenda.

Regional overview of progress in the implementation of the Arab Priority Action Plan 2021-2024

Mr. Fadi El-Jannan, Deputy Head of the Regional Office for Arab States of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, presented the progress achieved in the implementation of the Rabat Declaration and the Priority Action Plan 2021-2024, as reported prior to the meeting by 13 Arab States (out of 22) using the reporting form prepared by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. According to the report, the average achievement of the Declaration by the Arab States ranged from 5% to 65%, with an average of 35%, while the average achievement of the Arab States for each of the 17 items of the Rabat Declaration ranged from 17.5% to 50%, with an average of 33.75%.

As for the implementation rate of priority action plan items 2021-2024 under each of the four Sendai Framework priorities, the implementation rate varied as follows according to country reports:

First priority (understanding disaster risk)	Between 16% and 41.50%, an average of 29.50%.
Second priority (strengthening disaster risk management governance)	Between 23% and 46.50%, an average of 32%.

Third priority (investing in disaster risk reduction)	Between 13.50% and 41.50%, an average of 29.50%.
Fourth priority (enhanced preparedness for effective response and better reconstruction)	Between 21% and 42.13%, an average of 31.25%.

The average completion rate of the priority action plan 2021-2024 for each reporting country ranged from 5% to 64%, an average of 34.50%. Accordingly, Mr. El-Jannan concluded that the regional delivery ratio of both the Rabat Declaration and the Priority Action Plan 2021-2024 remained below average and only one year remained to be implemented.

Finally, Mr. Fadi El-Jannan presented the progress made in implementing the objectives of the Sendai Framework as reported on the Sendai Framework Monitoring System by the Arab States, which indicated that the number of Arab States reporting on the targets (a), (b) and (d) are the highest in recent years, while the number of States reporting on the last five targets, particularly targets (g) and (f) is significantly lower. Lastly, he stressed the importance to increase reporting efforts on the monitoring system to reflect real progress made, particularly in international reports that indicating achievement in the Arab region that are lower than in other regions.

Session I: Presentation of progress in the implementation of the Arab Priority Action Plan 2021-2024

The session was chaired by Mr. Mohamed Jrif, Head of the Department of Sensitization, Training and Cooperation at the Ministry of the Interior of the Kingdom of Morocco, who invited Arab States, in alphabetical order, to submit their presentations on the progress made in the implementation of the Rabat Declaration and the Priority Action Plan 2021-2024 (please refer to Annex 1 for each detailed presentation). The following are the highlights raised by States:

1. With regard to early warning, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan recommended adopting the idea of linking weather radars available in Arab countries to a unified and integrated system that enables all Arab countries to access weather radar data and outputs to issue accurate and timely disaster warnings, and the idea of operating a common warning system for Arab States similar to the one applied in South-Eastern Europe.
2. Tunisia invited the delegations of Arab States and the representatives of international organizations to utilize and exploit further the outputs comprised in the Tunis October 3rd, 2023 call by Arab-African States to harness science and technology in disaster risk reduction in the Arab States and in Africa at the 28 Conference of the Parties in Dubai.
3. The Sudan recommended the need to focus on the reconstruction of what has been destroyed in the Arab States, especially in the States of Palestine and the Sudan, and to better utilize all the resources of the organizations involved in disaster risk reduction, reconstruction and construction. It also reiterated the recommendation that the Sudan should be supported as a least developed country to catch up with developed countries in the implementation of the Sendai Framework, as this is at the heart of the recommendations of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the mid-term review of the Sendai Framework.
4. The Yemen Contact Point stressed Yemen's need for technical and financial support to strengthen its resilience and renewed the call for partners working in Yemen, especially the United Nations agencies, to help meet disaster risk reduction requirements. She invited the Green Climate Fund to engage in such support. It also expressed Yemen's current need to strengthen meteorology and multi-hazard early warning systems and to link them to their four components, support Yemen's civil defence capabilities, support the disaster loss and damage assessment programme, build national databases, develop local disaster risk reduction strategies and assist in their implementation.

The Chair invited the Arab groups of disaster risk reduction stakeholders listed below to make presentations on progress in the implementation of their voluntary work commitments to support the implementation of the Rabat Declaration and the Priority Plan of Action. (Please refer to Annex 2 for presentations details):

- Arab Consultative Group for Science and Technology for Disaster Risk Reduction
- Arab Group of Civil Society Organizations for Disaster Risk Reduction
- Arab Group for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment for Disaster Risk Reduction
- Arab Major Group for Children and Youth for Disaster Risk Reduction
- ARISE Private Sector Alliance for Disaster Risk Reduction in the United Arab Emirates
- ARISE Private Sector Alliance for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Arab Republic of Egypt
- Arab Information Group for Disaster Risk Reduction
- Inclusion of persons with disabilities in disaster risk reduction

A highlight of the presentations was the recommendation of the Arab Major Group for Children and Youth to involve its members in other stakeholder groups at the regional level, as well as to provide an overview of the ongoing work to draft the terms of reference for the establishment of the Arab Group of Disabled Persons' Organizations in disaster risk reduction.

Session II: Progress made by the United Nations and international and governmental organizations in implementing the Arab Priority Action Plan for 2021-2024

Mr. Mohamed Jrifa, Head of the Department of Sensitization, Training and Cooperation of the Ministry of the Interior of the Kingdom of Morocco chaired the session and invited the United Nations and the following international and governmental organizations to communicate their presentations: the League of Arab States, ESCWA, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, the International Organization for Migration, the World Food Programme and the United Nations Office for Project Services. (Please refer to Annex 3 for detailed presentations.)

In conclusion, the Chair thanked all participants in the meeting for their participation and presentations on the progress made in the implementation of the Rabat Declaration and the Priority Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction 2021-2024, and summarized the first day's proceedings and **the main messages emanating from it as follows:**

- The implementation of the Rabat Declaration and the Priority Action Plan 2021-2024, as reported through the UNDRR-developed reporting format and the Sendai Framework Monitoring System, appears to be moderate and inadequate despite the Arab States' considerable efforts and achievements.
- The importance of increasing the periodic reporting of Arab States on progress in the implementation of the Sendai Framework on the Sendai Framework Monitoring System as the official reporting platform was stressed.
- Arab States that had not communicated their progress report on the implementation of the Rabat Declaration and the Priority Action Plan to the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) were requested to provide UNDRR with their reporting on the desired format as soon as possible.

- The importance of accelerating the implementation of the Sendai Framework in the region and building global partnerships for capacity-building, technology transfer and research in disaster risk reduction was emphasized. An inter-Arab early warning platform has been proposed in line with WMO's protocols and in accordance with what is in place in other regions of the world.
- The importance of building on developed countries' experiences in establishing effective national early warning mechanisms was emphasized.

Day 2: Wednesday, 22 November 2023

Session III: Early Warning for All - Launch in Arab States

The session was chaired by Major General Mohamed Hijazi, Assistant Secretary-General for the Presidency of the Council of Ministers for Crisis and Disaster Affairs, Arab Republic of Egypt. Mr. Fadi El-Jannan, Deputy Head of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction-Regional Office for Arab States, introduced the second day session through the introduction of the agenda. The session focused on the presentation of the four pillars of the United Nations Secretary-General's Early Warning for All initiative at COP 27 in Sharm el-Sheikh.

The Chair invited Ms. Saira Ahmed, Risk Knowledge Officer of the UNDRR-ROAS Office, to provide an overview of the initiative, where she highlighted the key leaders of each of the four pillars at the international level. The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction is leading the first pillar focusing on disaster risk knowledge information, which includes promoting the production, access, dissemination and use of risk information, promoting stakeholder coordination, encouraging innovation and enabling decision makers and vulnerable communities to understand, identify and respond to risks. The second pillar focuses on risk detection, monitoring, analysis and forecasting, led by the World Meteorological Organization. The third pillar focuses on the dissemination of warnings and communications to institutions and to the public, led by the International Telecommunication Union, while the fourth pillar focuses on preparedness for response, led by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. The initiative was being implemented globally, initially in 30 countries in 18 months, and would be implemented in Comoros, Djibouti, Somalia and the Sudan. She also noted the convening by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction of a national consultative workshop in Somalia in November 2023 to analyse gaps in order to reduce any duplication of work and effort in accordance with the Initiative's operational plan. Ms. Saira shared future plans to support the Comoros, emphasizing the proactive approach to implementation and the projected positive impact in those regions.

Following the presentation, the Governor of Alexandria joined the meeting and gave a warm welcome to the participants, expressing his gratitude to the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and all participants for choosing Alexandria as the host city for this important gathering, after which he noted that Alexandria and Egypt as a whole faced the impacts of climate change, while contributing only 0.5% of global carbon emissions. He also stated that Egypt occupies the 20th place globally in the face of the challenges and risks posed by climate change and that Alexandria faced heavy rains of about 18 million cubic metres, but that its infrastructure can only deal with 2 million cubic metres, resulting in economic losses. The Governor then cited some reports, research and studies indicating the expected threat of a tsunami in the Mediterranean. Lastly, he reiterated his welcome to the participants and expressed the Governorate's disposal for meeting any needs of the participants during their stay.

The Chair then invited Mr. Cyril Honoré, Director of the Disaster Risk Reduction and Public Services Branch of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), to present the Initiative's second pillar through a video where he noted that Arab States were experiencing increased temperatures and their effects, which required the establishment of effective multi-hazard early warning systems. According to a global report he mentioned, 9% of the region recognizes that it possesses risk knowledge, while only 32% have risk prediction systems. He stressed that the success of early warning systems depended on a mix of efforts from all stakeholders engaged in emergency preparedness and response and the need for downward (top-down) systems to ensure successful implementation. He further stressed the importance of regional coordination to enable data sharing towards enhancing society's resilience and that States recognized the value of resource sharing among neighbouring countries.

Egypt's Director of Meteorology, Major General Hisham Tahoun, highlighted developments in Egypt's early warning systems, and collaborative efforts led by meteorology with the private sector alliance ARISE in Egypt and Nile University, which are to be a focal point for discussion at COP 28 to reflect Egypt's commitment to strengthening resilience and preparedness for potential disasters. Mr. Hédi Suhaili, national focal point of the Tunisian Ministry of Environment, shared his insights on the Arab-African Conference on Science and Technology for Disaster Risk Reduction. He emphasized the importance of collective action and cooperative efforts to ensure the successful implementation of the Tunisia call for action emanating from the Conference, which offered a critical platform for strengthening partnerships and leveraging scientific and technological progress in pursuing effective disaster risk reduction strategies. Dr Wadid Erian, a member of the Arab Consultative Group for Science and Technology for Disaster Risk Reduction, stressed the need for better coordination and exchange of information between countries, as some countries have important and sophisticated systems that can benefit the rest of the region such as Lebanon's wildfire mapping systems, Egypt's early warning system and Sudan's monsoon movement monitoring system.

The Chair then invited Dr Sarah Walsh of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) to provide an overview of the Federation's work and leadership of Pillar IV where she noted that IFRC was working to strengthen the capacities of communities and ensure their participation in order to take action to respond effectively. She stressed the need to establish livelihood reference centres, identify assistance to public authorities and Governments, and draw on community experiences at all levels from national to local. She also emphasized that vulnerable groups of society such as persons with disabilities should be taken in consideration in early warning systems. Dr Sarah explained the need for capacity-building and awareness-raising initiatives and emphasized that understanding what action needs to be taken when receiving warnings is critical and ensures that communities are well prepared to respond effectively. The main message was that the warning must be translated into early action and, to that end, close work was needed with the community. Here, the Governor of Alexandria stressed the need to raise awareness within society because, in the case of some threats like earthquakes, early warning takes only a few minutes, so it is necessary to urge the most carbon-producing countries to reduce their carbon footprint.

Case studies on early warning systems from Somalia, the United Arab Emirates and Palestine were therefore presented to share these States' experiences. Subsequently, the Chairperson invited Ms. Mirna Abu Atta, Regional Programme Officer at the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction-Regional Office for Arab States, to make a presentation on the status of reporting in the Arab region on progress made towards achieving target G on early warning systems on the Sendai Framework monitoring system. In her presentation, she showed that the reporting rate on the six target G indicators on the Sendai Framework monitoring system was low in the Arab region compared to other regions of the world, which required efforts to increase reporting and accuracy on the system.

Highlights discussed after the presentation include:

1. Expressed concern about the availability of data for effective action and emphasized the importance of data exchange to analyse gaps in early warning systems. The representative of the Jordanian Meteorological Centre called for the need not to privatize weather and climate data and for such data to be shared at the regional level. Here, Ms. Saira stressed that dependence is not limited to current country data, introducing the valuable role of artificial intelligence in identifying hot spots where this approach broadens available information, thus enhancing the initiative's effectiveness.
2. Emphasis was placed on the need to implement awareness-raising activities for cities, Governments and society that promote understanding of risks.
3. It was emphasized that the early warning system focused on surveillance, monitoring and hence warning, but that not all natural hazards contained sufficient indicators or underwent sufficient research

that translated into concrete actions, such as earthquakes. The importance of focusing on risk prevention actions was therefore stressed.

4. The Arab Information Group (Ms. Mei El Shafei) presented a strategic vision, stressing that the implementation of this initiative in the Arab States depends on a comprehensive risk analysis, and highlighted the importance of designing strategies based on country profiles and economic conditions, stressing the indispensable role of technology in this process.

The meeting's main recommendations were:

1. Development of a mechanism to promote the exchange of information among Arab States in the field of early warning
2. Increase efforts in reporting on progress in the implementation of target G on the Sendai Framework monitoring system to accurately reflect the state of development of early warning systems in the Arab region compared to other regions around the world.

Session IV: Update on the outcomes of major global and regional events on disaster risk reduction in 2023

The session was chaired by Mr. Hassan Abu al-Eila, Head of the National Disaster Risk Management Centre, Prime Minister's Office, State of Palestine. Presentations were made on the outcomes of the following global and regional conferences and events:

1. Political Declaration on the Mid-term Review of the Sendai Framework, by Ms. Mirna Abu Atta, Regional Programme Officer, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR-ROAS).
2. The Arab-African call in Tunisia to use science and technology for disaster risk reduction in the Arab States and in Africa by Mr. Hédi Suhaili, Ministry of the Environment, Republic of Tunisia.
3. Dubai Call to Action: Expanding the capabilities to counter a changing climate, by Dr Saud Al-Qaraan, Dubai Resilience Centre - Dubai Police, UAE via recorded video.
4. Participation of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Conference of the Parties (COP-28) by Ms. Rania Hammad, Conference of the Parties Officer-in-Charge, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction-Regional Office for Arab States.

Highlights of the session participants' recommendations include:

- The representative of Yemen stated that climate change and disaster risk reduction were closely interrelated, and reports indicated that substantial funding had been allocated to disaster risk reduction, but Yemen had still not seen tangible results owing to poor transparency with regard to the channelling and use of funding. He stressed the importance for COP 28 to address those concerns and provide clarity on the use of funds allocated to disaster risk reduction. He also stressed the importance that hard-hit States like Yemen, obtain compensation in order to rebuild infrastructure and restore affected ecosystems. Noting that funds for green initiatives did not reach people directly, he called for such funds to be channelled straight towards benefiting affected communities and for mitigation efforts funded by climate and green funds to have a clear impact on the ground. He urged greater accountability and transparency, and to ensure that funds were used effectively to meet the challenges faced by countries such as Yemen.

- The importance of prioritizing enhanced flexibility in urban planning was stressed, given urban areas' particular vulnerability to natural hazards and pollution. This includes strengthening the capacity of municipal staff in disaster risk reduction, the Sendai Framework and early warning systems.
- The importance of raising these issues at COP 28 in Dubai to ensure that funding reaches people, especially in urban areas facing risks, was stressed.

Session V: Regional consultation on the Arab-African call of Tunisia to harness science and technology in disaster risk reduction in the Arab States and in Africa

Ms. Mirna Abu Atta, Regional Programme Officer, Regional Office for Arab States of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, moderated the meeting. Participants were divided into four groups according to the priorities of the Sendai Framework to examine how to implement the Arab-African call of Tunisia aiming to harness science and technology to reduce disaster risks. An action plan and a timetable for its implementation were to be drawn and later incorporated into the Priority Action Plan 2025-2028. **The results of the working groups are included in annex 4.**

Session VI: Consultation at the Local Level on Activating the Dubai Call to Action: Expanding the Capacity to Counter a Changing Climate

The meeting was moderated by Ms. Ilaf Ruslan, focal point for the resilience programme for cities and regional programme officer, Regional Office for Arab States of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. The session focused on implementing the Dubai Call to Action as well as identifying priority actions outlined therein to incorporate them into the Priority Action Plan 2025-2028. After the introduction to the session, Iraq presented its reconstruction efforts in Anbar after the destruction inflicted on it by ISIL. The Dubai Call to Action was also presented and a consultation between local level representatives was facilitated by the following questions:

- What are the main challenges and needs at the city level?
- What do local governments need at the national level/authorities?
- In the ideal scenario, what will achievements look like? What will local governments achieve?
- What can be achieved from this Declaration in one, two and four years?

Please refer to Annex 5 for the outcome of the session.

Day 3: Thursday, 23 November 2023

Session VII: Preparations for the Sixth Arab Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction/ Regional Consultation on the Priority Action Plan 2025-2028

The meeting was moderated by Mr. Fadi El-Jannan, Deputy Head, United Nations Regional Office for Arab States, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. Participants were divided into four groups according to the priorities of the Sendai Framework to identify priority activities that could be included in the next Priority Action Plan, 2025-2028, for adoption at the Sixth Arab Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction. The groups were requested to review the progress made and reported in the implementation of the priority action plan 2021-2024 (ongoing) and of the political declaration on the mid-term review of the Sendai Framework in order to outline the next plan. **Please refer to Annex 6 for the results of the working groups submitted at the end of the session.**

At the conclusion of the meeting, Mr. Fadi El-Jannan thanked all participants in the meeting over the three days for their active involvement in the meeting's work and valuable interventions, noting that the draft report of the meeting would be shared with all participants in the coming weeks to provide their observations.

Annex 1

Governments' interventions (in alphabetical order) on progress in the implementation of the Priority Plan of Action 2022-2024/Rabat Declaration

Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

The national focal point for the Sendai Framework in the Kingdom made a presentation stating that its implementation rate of the Rabat Declaration was between 75% and 100%, while its implementation rate of the activities pertaining to the priority action plan 2021-2024 was between 80% and 90%. The following achievements were presented:

- The National Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction was launched with its second stage, 2023-2030, supplementing the first stage 2019-2022. The three-year action plan (2023-2025) of the Strategy included several activities to achieve the majority of priorities and activities of the Priority Action Plan 2021-2024 and the Rabat Declaration.
- RMAS was launched.
- The Council of Ministers approved the reasons for the National Centre for Security and Crisis Management's 2023 project aimed at the implementation of the National Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction directives. The aim of the Centre is also to develop its activities and keep pace with global best practices, international experiences and standards on disaster risk reduction, emergencies and crisis management, and to develop an institutional national preventive approach that is risk predicting and consistent with the second priority activity of the Priority Plan of Action 2021-2024:
- The introduction of monitoring indicators for the Sendai Risk Reduction Framework has increased from approximately 65% in previous years to 98%.
- Jordan's Immunity Programme was launched in collaboration with UNDP. (UNDP)
- Work is under way on the preparation of the second revised version of Crisis Management and Risk Reduction terminology to be disseminated to all educational institutes in the Kingdom.
- An agreement was concluded with a local company to create an innovative collective and comprehensive alert system with advanced scientific features to send text, audio, vibration and light alerts to all people within a specific geographical area in the event of disasters.
- In collaboration with Mercy Corps, an agreement was signed with a private company to strengthen the role of the private sector and the local communities in flood risks reduction.
- An agreement has been reached with the National institutions to launch a unified national volunteer platform to standardize, gather and classify their data for a maximized use in disaster and crisis situations.
- The National Centre for Security and Crisis Management was entrusted with chairing the Technical Committee in charge of preparing the fourth axis of the National Social Protection Strategy ("Protection against trauma and crises").

- The National Safe Path Exercise (3) was implemented to test the coordinated national earthquake response plan to promote technical and human capacity-building in the development and implementation of disaster risk reduction action plans at all levels.
- Initiation of the national flood mapping project in cooperation with the Swiss partners.
- At the initiative of a group of university professors, a training course was held for a group of staff of the Centre and a number of staff of relevant institutions to model the collapse of dams using advanced programs, and to prepare plans to evacuate affected areas in the event of collapse.

The meteorological representative then presented the following achievements:

- Monitoring, measuring and optimal distribution tools of the meteorological observation stations have been improved. Some 40 automated observation stations have been added and installed in unpopulated areas including a weather radar station in full adherence to WMO and ICAO standards, guidelines and directions.
- Meteorological weather forecasting offices issue and update weather reports in all media at least three times a day warning of hazardous weather events such as thunderstorms, dust and sandstorms and the threat of floods, frost, freezing, and heat and cold waves, including a warning map identifying areas that may be affected. Warnings are distributed and reported at least two days in advance to all State institutions, citizens and farmers through audiovisual media, websites and social media. All State institutions have points of contact with meteorological centres that provide them with weather forecasts and warnings that are regularly updated. The meteorological office also provides the National Centre for Security and Crisis Management with a permanent weather forecaster.
- The Meteorological office, through its highly trained staff, issues warnings via the Joint Warning Protocol (CAP), a digital format for exchanging emergency warnings when needed via WMO's multiple communications channels.
- The Meteorological office is currently training its technical staff to deal with the World Meteorological Organization's Black Sea and Middle East Flash Flood Guidance System to monitor and determine the accuracy of appropriate decision-making for future adoption.
- Among the early warning recommendations for risk reduction: 1. Adopt the idea of linking weather radars available in the Arab countries with a unified and integrated system that enables all Arab countries to follow the data and outputs of weather radars to issue accurate and timely warnings for disasters, and 2. Adopt the idea of a common warning system for Arab countries similar to the warning system applied in the countries of South-Eastern Europe.

United Arab Emirates

The representative of the United Arab Emirates introduced the progress made as follows:

1. The National Emergency, Crisis and Disaster Management Authority was established in 2007 to oversee response at all emergency stages.
2. The National Risk Reduction Forum was established in 2018 to align with the requirements of the Sendai Framework, together with the adoption of a national strategy for disaster risk reduction and its linkage to the sustainable development goals.
3. The National Business Continuity System (NBCS) has been developed and contributes to the achievement of national flexibility for the continuity of vital services and products at the national level in order to achieve the UAE's objectives.

4. The Government of the United Arab Emirates has developed a national approach to understanding and making risks a priority, as well as national plans that include training, harnessing technology and satellite systems further, as well as the application of the early warning systems.
5. Targeted policies have been designed for some segments of society, including persons with disabilities or special needs, women and young people, with a view to empowering and caring for them in crisis and disaster situations.
6. In its national efforts, it has focused on raising awareness and mainstreaming risk reduction in children's educational curricula.
7. The UAE Gender Balance Council was established to promote gender balance in all areas, including risk reduction, as women in the UAE participate very effectively in all fields of life.

Kingdom of Bahrain

The representative of the Kingdom of Bahrain introduced the progress made as follows:

1. The National Risk Matrix Register is being updated to ensure that priorities are classified and preparations are updated periodically, reflecting readiness to deal with any potential risks in the Kingdom of Bahrain.
2. A number of senior officials from the ministry of interior were trained in the United Kingdom's Emergency Planning Faculty. Local training courses were devised also to enhance their capacity in preparing national drills.
3. Cooperation is under way with the Ministry of Education and the Higher Education Council in the formulation of curricula on disaster risk reduction and how to deal with emergencies.
4. A national training programme on the Sendai Framework was organized.
5. A special budget has been allocated regarding preparedness for dealing with radiation hazards.
6. The Kingdom of Bahrain has relevant legislation in place to deal with disasters, as stipulated in the Civil Defence Act. The concept is also being integrated by consolidating the national emergency plan.
7. Shelter centres have been activated and maintained in all governorates of Bahrain by assigning responsibilities, equipping means of transport and identifying evacuation sites. The implementation of the Healthy Cities Programme is a key part of the Kingdom's efforts to achieve the sustainable development goals.
8. On dealing with biological hazards, coordination was undertaken to update and align the emergency indicators with the International Health Regulations. A new methodology in risk analysis at the national level was introduced. Linking health agencies to the National Emergency Management Centre through an updated strategy in addition to identifying focal points for health risks, building an information-sharing mechanism, highlighting the importance of sustaining State services and resilience in dealing with disasters and crises were also undertaken.
9. To build on developed countries' experiences in establishing effective national warning and early warning mechanisms, the Kingdom has begun organizing and coordinating visits to learn about best practices and draw inspiration from successful experiences.
10. The Kingdom of Bahrain has achieved great successes in combating the COVID-19 pandemic by providing support to the community, especially in the areas of health care, economic support, awareness-raising and the implementation of strict and effective procedures, where the balance between health protection and maintaining the sustainability of economic activities was achieved. In particular,

large-scale screening campaigns have been launched, and free treatment has been provided to citizens and residents.

11. On the basis of the responsibility of the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain to preserve the security and safety of citizens and residents of the Kingdom of Bahrain, in its strategy, the Ministry of the Interior attached great importance to the culture of security, making civil protection a priority. This was emphasized by the Civil Defence Council under the chairmanship of His Excellency the Minister of the Interior through the recent inauguration of the National Civil Protection Platform as a reference, knowledge and awareness raising base. This platform is a national project in the field of strengthening public safety and was launched on the basis of a national survey, the results of which underscored the importance of raising awareness about safety guidelines and procedures for dealing with emergency conditions.

12. The Civil Defence Volunteering Project was also launched, which aims to build capacities, so that volunteers can help the task forces through a constructive community partnership, which requires the individual to be armed with the knowledge and skills needed to act immediately. The volunteering project aims to train, prepare and organize volunteers and enhance the safety and preventive awareness within the society, i.e. volunteers are selected according to specific requirements and are qualified and gradually integrated into work.

Republic of Tunisia

The national focal point of the Republic's Sendai Framework presented the progress achieved as follows:

Tunisia has been involved in all regional and international trajectories related to disaster risk reduction and is working to implement its commitments in these trajectories as follows:

1. The preparation of the National Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and its Implementation Plan of Action 2020-2030 and the periodic prioritization of the implementation of this Plan, taking into account regional and global priorities, in particular the mentioned declarations adopted at the Arab level and the mid-term review of the Sendai Framework that took place during this year in New York.

2. This strategy has been incorporated into a comprehensive ecological transition strategy, which has been endorsed by a ministerial council. The aim of the ecological transition strategy is to achieve the sustainable development goals and adapt to and mitigate climate change, especially by building on existing natural solutions and taking into account the results of all relevant strategies at the national level.

3. To effectively implement the Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy Scheme, an integrated natural hazard disaster resilience programme has been developed at a cost of approximately US \$125 million with these key components:

a. Component of flood risk reduction in urban areas; considering that the scheme prioritizes these risks under the technical supervision of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Housing (Urban Water Management).

b. Component for enhancing disaster preparedness: modernization of meteorological, hydrology and early warning systems equipment (in line with the United Nations Secretary-General's Early Warnings for All Initiative) under the auspices of the National Civil Protection Office, the National Meteorological Office and the General Directorate of Water Resources of the Ministry of Agriculture. A working group of various institutions and structures related to the four components of an effective early warning system was formed to implement this component and trained on the subject. In this regard, the National Meteorological Office continues to strengthen its modelling capabilities by

installing a supercomputer and further improving the vigilance map that has been operational since the end of 2020.

c. Component for the development of financial mechanisms for the repair of disaster damage: the study and development of solutions and mechanisms for disaster risk insurance is supervised by the Ministry of Finance's departments, with the active participation of the private sector and civil society components.

d. Component to strengthen institutional coordination for climate and disaster risk management aimed at developing the legal and institutional framework to strengthen governance and coordination between different sectors at the national and local levels in the field of disaster risk reduction in accordance with the directions of the National Strategy for DRR. The Directorate General of Environment and Quality of Life of the Ministry of Environment, as the national focal point of the Sendai Framework, works to implement this component in a participatory manner at the national level and takes into account the role of all sectors and structures at various stages of disaster risk management, including the establishment of a national platform for disaster risk management and a resilience unit, developing the legislative system and the review of municipalities' role in disaster risk management. The principles of resilience are included in all the legislation being drafted like the Environmental Code and the Urban Planning Code.

4. Tunisia organized the African Arab Conference on Science and Technology for Disaster Risk Reduction, under the theme "Towards a resilient future: The interrelationship between science, technology, policies and the private sector for disaster risk reduction", in cooperation with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Arab Consultative Group on Science and Technology for Disaster Risk Reduction, the African Union Commission and with the participation of all States and experts from all over the world. The conference, the first of its kind to encompass science, technology, policies and the private sector to reduce disaster risk, provided an opportunity to value the role of science, technology and scientific research in finding optimal solutions to reduce the impacts of climate change and its response at the Arab and African levels. It would also contribute to the implementation and strengthening of the outputs of the 27th and 28th Conferences of the Parties on Climate Change at the Arab, African and global levels, particularly in the area of strengthening multi-hazard early warning systems in line with the United Nations Secretary-General's Early Warnings for All Initiative, which prioritizes support for the most vulnerable. It also highlights the role of science and technology in providing important economic benefits by finding less expensive solutions to adapt to climate change and reduce disaster losses, which in turn will contribute to enhancing the effectiveness of the Loss and Damage compensation Fund approved at COP 27. The conference led to the "Arab-African Call of Tunisia to Use Science and Technology for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Arab States and in Africa", Tunis, October 3, 2023.

People's Democratic Republic of Algeria

Progress was presented as follows:

1. Algeria has adopted numerous strategies to address disaster risk since 1985 under successive international and regional frameworks. These strategies are the national organizational structure and the national institutional structure for disaster risk reduction, which comprise in short:

- Executive Decree 85/231 establishing the conditions for the regulation and implementation of interventions and assistance in the event of disaster as well as the modalities thereof (1985);
- Executive Decree 85/232 on disaster risk prevention (1985), Act No. 04-20 of 25 December 2004 on the prevention of major hazards and the management of disasters in the framework of sustainable development, which identified the following 10 major hazards: Earthquakes and geological hazards, floods, climate hazards, forest fires, industrial and energy hazards, radiological and nuclear

hazards, human health related hazards, animal and plant health hazards, air, land, marine and water pollution, and disasters resulting from large human settlements. Climate hazards were divided into 6 sub-hazards: strong winds, heavy rains (significant rainfall), droughts, desertification, sandy winds and snowstorms. The Act provides for the preparation of a General Prevention Scheme (PGPR) for every risk ratified by decree. Such scheme must set various rules and procedures aimed at reducing exposure to the risks involved and preventing the effects of such risk occurring.

- Executive Decree No. 19-59, dated 2 February 2019, lays down the preparation and operation of assistance schemes;
- Amend the Act on the Prevention of Major Hazards and the Management of Disasters in the Framework of Sustainable Development in the current year 2023 to cover the shortcomings in Act No. 04-20 by identifying the following elements: Quantified strategic objectives; compliance with the Sendai Framework and the country's sustainable development in accordance with its objectives; setting a timetable for the implementation and identification of appropriate means of financing, in particular the establishment of a special fund for disaster risk management; assigning responsibilities and establishing a multisectoral research body dedicated to major hazards in order to improve knowledge about major hazards and strengthen public authorities' decision-making regarding disaster risk management; establishing sectoral committees on disaster risk management at the relevant ministerial sector level and the integration of new hazards, particularly those associated with extreme climatic hazards, space hazards, cyber hazards, locust hazards and biotechnology hazards; providing the Civil Protection Units with air support consisting of water launcher aircraft and drones to counter forest fires.

In conjunction with this national organizational structure for disaster risk reduction, the National Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction is accompanied by a national institutional structure for disaster risk reduction, which consists of:

- The establishment in February 1985 of a research centre in astronomy, astrophysics and geophysics under the auspices of the Ministry of Interior, Local Communities and Urbanization, of a sectoral nature, for seismic surveillance of the Territory. It has a wide seismic observation network consisting of (180) remotely controlled digital stations spread over the national territory, recording in real-time the earthquakes, disseminating warnings in real-time and determining the location and intensity of the tremor, the depth of the seismic focus and the distance between the site of the tremor and the nearest city, in order to inform the authorities to deploy and direct rapid intervention as well as the population through social media networks.
- Establishment of the "National Seismic Applied Engineering Research Centre" in April 1985. The Centre currently encompasses a seismic movement monitoring network of basic installations and structures consisting of 480 seismic stations that record the acceleration of the ground motion, installed in appropriate locations and on special facilities across earthquake-prone areas.
- In addition to mobile dynamic testing equipment (ocean vibrations) and geophysical verification devices, the Centre has a fixed laboratory for dynamic testing of structures and installations consisting of a shaking table with 6 degrees movement force, an experimental platform and an interaction wall, which has been funded by the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (the PAMERAR Project) since 2007.
- The establishment of the National Meteorological Centre in 1975, whose main tasks are to ensure the acquisition, processing, exploitation and broadcasting of meteorological data through special weather bulletins, issuing early warning of flood threats, using various communication networks and safeguarding the climate archive.

- To discharge its functions to the best of its ability, the National Meteorological Centre (NMC) created a meteorological network consisting of 571 weather stations, satellite stations and 400 climate observation sites across the national territory.
- The establishment of the Scientific and Technical Centre for Dry Areas of a sectoral nature in 1983, located in one of the southern Algerian Governorates (Biskra), which is responsible for countering the phenomenon of drought, desertification, sand movement and sandstorms.
- Establishment of the National Centre for Lunar Technology for Research and Development in the fields of lunar technology, geophysics and topographical and cartographic data in 1987.
- The establishment of the National Agency for Space Technologies for Research and Development in Space Technologies in 2002. The Agency's main resources are satellites.
- The establishment of the Technical Supervisory Authority for Construction in 1971 and its main oversight function aimed at reducing successive incidents secured every ten years. This guarantee grants the entrepreneur and the user adequate insurance on all controlled workshops. The control of risk mitigation generally concerns residential, sporting and cultural buildings, related equipment and public works facilities.
- The establishment of 20 university research laboratories on disaster risk reduction in 1998 and the launch of 100 research projects.
- Establishment of the National High Risks Commission in 2011.
- Establishment of the National Centre for Environmental Research in 2019.
- Establishment in 2020 of a national database on all risks

These disaster risk reduction efforts are undertaken in coordination between national sectors and under the Arab and Global Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction as a regional and global document approved by the Heads of State for the Implementation of the Sendai Framework.

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

The representative of the Kingdom introduced the progress made as follows:

1. The Kingdom has taken the initiative to achieve Target E of the Sendai Framework for National and Local Disaster Risk Reduction Strategies.
2. Established the National Risk Council, which identifies directions, visions and objectives pertaining to disaster, crisis, emergency and business continuity risk reduction at the national level, enhances stakeholders' capacity for prevention, planning and coordination, and endorses relevant strategies, policies, plans, programmes, methodologies, standards, controls and relevant performance indicators.
3. Established the National Disaster and Crisis Management Centre and developed the National Risk, Emergency and Business Continuity Management Framework, the National Supply Chain Resilience Management Framework, the Risk and Emergency Management and Business Continuity Efficiency Framework, and the Resilience Index to Measure the Level of Readiness in Risk, Emergency and Business Continuity Management.
4. Saudi Arabia has developed a directory of risk management and business continuity units and committees in government entities. A guide for risk management and a glossary of terms and concepts for risk management, emergencies and business continuity has been prepared.

5. Since 2015, the Kingdom has actively participated in the elaboration and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and has set them as of their top priorities, adopting many plans and strategies that promote sustainable development goals and improve the quality of life in line with the Kingdom's Vision 2030.

6. Health sector efforts in implementing the Sendai Framework: The Kingdom has made strategic efforts in promoting understanding of health risks, strengthening health risk management governance, investing in strengthening health system efforts in reducing disaster risk, enhancing emergency preparedness, strengthening international cooperation, global strategic partnerships and commitment to research and innovation in reducing health emergencies.

7. Through the King Salman Centre for Relief and Humanitarian Assistance, established in 2015, the Kingdom has contributed humanitarian, relief and development assistance to more than 164 countries around the world with the participation of international, regional and local partners in beneficiary countries. Many programmes have been implemented such as food security, shelter, early recovery, education, logistics and others.

8. With regard to the Kingdom's efforts in the area of bilateral and multilateral cooperation, it is involved in several international initiatives on climate change and clean energy technology. The Kingdom has launched a number of national initiatives. His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman announced the launch of the "Green Saudi Arabia and the Green Middle East" initiative, which will contribute to protecting the Earth and the environment, and achieving global goals in facing climate change and other environmental challenges such as desertification, air pollution, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and greenhouse warming.

9. Best practices are applied in response to emergency events and disasters caused by climate change. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia by:

- Developing early warning systems for severe weather situations and launching a smart electronic platform to launch early warning and alerts prior to events, and increasing the geographical coverage of the Kingdom's cities to monitor weather variables from rains, torrents and dust storms through a network of automated monitoring stations for severe rains and storms.
- Day-to-day analysis and forecasting, accompanied by a series of reports including the weather forecast and other quarterly information provided by the National Meteorological Centre.
- Developing numerical models such as weather forecasting, marine models, real-time forecasting systems and emergency readiness by securing mobile bipolar weather surveillance radars, mobile surface and atmosphere monitoring stations.
- 24-hour immediate response to the implementation of national and local emergency plans, as well as follow-up to global events and the signing of memorandums of understanding with international partners in the field of meteorology.

10. With regard to the Kingdom's efforts, the National Centre for Monitoring Environmental Commitments to Disaster Risk Reduction is responsible for protecting the marine and coastal environment from oil spills and other harmful substances and for upgrading national capacities, preparedness to respond to any spills in the Red Sea and the Arabian Gulf through the following measures:

- Building national capacities to accelerate the response by providing the necessary human and technical resources, 5 specialized vessels to combat oil spills in the Red Sea and 3 specialized aircraft to spray chemical dispersants in the Red Sea (the largest specialized fleet in the Middle East).
- Conduct 12 specialized tactical exercises to respond to the oil spill at the national level.

- Completion of the equipping of 5 response centres to combat oil spills on the Red Sea and 3 response centres on the Arabian Gulf.
- Establishment of a national company specializing in combating pollution of the marine environment with oil and harmful substances with an operational capacity of 530,000 barrels per day.
- Expansion of the current national network for monitoring ambient air pollutants at the level of the Kingdom's cities.
- The establishment of the National Waste Management Centre, which aims to organize the development of the waste management sector in the Kingdom to achieve environmental and financial sustainability with the highest regulatory standards and quality throughout the waste management value chain.

Republic of Sudan

The national focal point presented progress in the Sudan as follows:

- The Sudan is planning for the management of the ongoing conflict and post-conflict recovery phase and is working to rebuild what has been destroyed and better build-up, urban planning and reconstruction approaches. She stressed the importance of sharing experiences and practices among States following the political declaration on the mid-term review of the Sendai Framework. She requested the inclusion of a recommendation that emphasis should be placed on the reconstruction of what had been destroyed in the Arab States, particularly in the States of Palestine and the Sudan, and that all capacities of the organizations involved be utilized in disaster risk reduction, reconstruction and better construction.
- The Sudan had a political will to implement the Sendai Framework, developing a national strategy for disaster risk reduction. The National Centre for Civil Defence also prepared a voluntary report on the mid-term review of the Sendai Framework in coordination with all its representatives and presented it at the Seventh Global Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction in Bali 2022 and at the high-level meeting of the General Assembly in New York in May 2023. Sudan's achievements, gaps and weaknesses in implementation were presented with the request for increased support to the State in accelerating the implementation of the Sendai Framework as a least developed country. Among the recommendations made were:
 - a. Change construction in Sudanese cities by, inter alia, applying urban planning and construction consistent with safety specifications and under specialized engineering units' guidance, implementing safety and flexibility procedures, and committing to this approach in all governmental, civil and residential installations to ensure their resilience;
 - b. Rehabilitation and development of human and community capacities in dealing with risks, including evacuation exercises and procedures that ensure the safety of the population;
 - c. Introduce a culture of risk reduction and response by society into the media and academia as communities are the forefront of risk response.
 - d. The establishment of a risk early warning system in partnership with and funding from the Italian Agency for Development and Cooperation and the commencement of implementation in 2022.
 - e. Several seminars, workshops and training courses to disseminate the culture of building cities' resilience.
 - f. Implementation of projects funded by IGAD countries through the Ministry of Irrigation and Water Resources aimed at agricultural development, preservation of vegetation and forestry in the Horn of Africa countries and development of plans and strategies needed in multiple phases.

g. Implementation of global and regional conventions and frameworks, including the Civil Protection Strategy formulated by Arab Ministers of the Interior and the work of the United Nations Offices for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) in the Arab and African regions.

As the urban environment is fragile and most vulnerable to floods, droughts, heatwaves and pandemics, the Public Meteorological Authority issues weather bulletins and forecasts in time to enable all national actors to take the necessary measures. It also issues daily weather forecasts and special bulletins for news agencies, updates climate forecasts and continuous weather and climate monitoring through projects such as the Italian Agency for Development and Cooperation's multi-hazard early warning project and another project with the Ministry of Irrigation and the National Environment Council, funded by the United Nations Environment Organization (UNEP), aimed at spreading flood alerts for the Blue Nile, Atbara River and their tributaries, which will soon be operational. The Meteorological Authority will contribute to the project by providing the necessary data and forecasts.

Federal Republic of Somalia

The national focal point presented progress as follows:

- Somalia has been keen to promote integrated and proactive disaster risk management based on loss and damage trends and patterns and to manage risk-threat sources. A national strategy for disaster risk reduction was recently initiated with the support of the United Nations Regional Office for Arab States of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction in line with the Sendai Framework and priorities. The Strategy will serve as a foundation to implement the remaining terms of the Sendai Framework at the Republic level.
- The political landscape mapping document for disaster risk reduction and climate change has been prepared and has revealed the need to develop Somalia's early warning systems. Consequently, a multi-hazard early warning system, a pilot project in 2020 at the national level, has been established and was already operational. Its operation is now supported through a feasibility study developed in collaboration with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, which identified gaps and improvement opportunities.
- The framework for proactive actions to enhance flood preparedness in Somalia has been developed and it was linked to the early warning system. This was the first year where alerts of El Niño phenomenon (which cause a lot of floods) were issued starting in June and July. Flood causing thresholds were set early in October 2023 and the time needed to respond was established so that many people at risk were reached in a timely manner, saving lives.
- A framework for multi-hazard proactive actions is being developed to implement the shift from a traditional approach to a risk assessment, limitation and effect mitigation approach through pre-hazard intervention.
- Somalia has been selected as one of the countries in which the “Early Warnings For All” Initiative will be implemented and such implementation has already started and was supported this month.

Republic of Iraq

The representative of the Republic introduced Iraq's progress as follows:

1. A new structure has been created as the Department of Disasters and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction within the Directorate of Climate Change of the Ministry of Environment, which has been established as a Directorate since April 2023, comprising five departments, including the Department of Disasters.

2. A national strategy has been prepared by the Ministry of the Interior and the Joint Operations Command of the Ministry of Defence pending final approval.
3. Maps were prepared based on data collected in the marshland areas of southern Iraq and water bodies using GIS programs.
4. A mapping of the structures and areas close to the earthquake prone zones near Syria and Turkey was carried out and appropriate plans were put in place.
5. Cities' participation in the programme to Make Cities Resilient 2030 has been supported. Baghdad, Anbar, Mosul, Muthanna, Dhi Qar and Diwaniyah governorates have joined and are training cadres in the participating districts.
6. Emphasis was placed on training personnel working in disaster risk reduction through workshops and courses in cooperation with international organizations and relevant bodies.
7. Documentaries on drought and desertification have been filmed in water-scarce areas that suffered real crises.
8. Early warning and disaster preparedness projects have been proposed in agreement with international organizations for future implementation.
9. Work is under way on the preparation of a guide for the prevention of earthquake risks.
10. Early warning equipment was provided to the relevant entities and the Meteorological Authority; weather monitoring devices were also updated.
11. A database of losses and damage caused by disasters has been compiled in all governorates and appropriate response plans have been drawn.

Sultanate of Oman

The representative of the Sultanate of Oman introduced the progress made as follows:

Aware of its geographical position, the Sultanate developed the necessary foundations, methodologies and tools for early disaster risk reduction, establishing the National Emergency Management System in 1988, represented by the National Emergency Management Centre; The system was strengthened by the establishment in 2008 of the National Centre for Multi-hazard Early Warning as a sophisticated centre providing early warning services against hazards and disasters that may result from weather variability and climate change, such as tropical cyclones, flood rains, fog, dust and severe winds. Some of the National Emergency Management System's efforts are as follows:

- The organisation is responsible for managing emergencies and disasters through an integrated system that works to mitigate the impacts of exceptional emergencies by monitoring hazards, issuing early warnings, and preparedness for an immediate and effective response with a view to restore the normal situation in accordance with plans that take into account the organization and integration of national efforts and capacities.
- The National Committee works through the National Emergency Management Centre, which aims to achieve preparedness for the country's human or natural hazards, take action to address them, reduce their effects and integrate all national efforts in cooperation with the relevant authorities. The Centre is responsible for monitoring and implementing the policies and strategies for disaster response plans prepared in coordination with the relevant authorities and for reviewing, monitoring and updating disaster response plans in various sectors; developing implementation mechanisms and guaranteeing the national system's preparedness and enhancing integration of joint responses through training programmes, practical exercises, research and scientific studies, ensuring that the network of emergency

management subcommittees' operational centres in the governorates is ready for disaster response and is able to operate in emergency situations.

- The National Emergency Management Committee has included disaster risk reduction in the National Emergency Management Plan, which defines emergency management as "the systematic process through which potential risks are assessed and measures, procedures and resources are developed to deal with them and reduce their impact. Emergency situations include all exceptional occurrences (irrespective of their causes) that result in human or material damage that exceeds the competent authority response capacity and require other institutions' cooperation, mobilization and pooling of the necessary resources and capacities to contain and reduce their damages. "
- The plan clarified the tasks and roles of the risk reduction phase for all stakeholders, emphasizing the adoption of the risk assessment methodology as a basis for contingency management planning and that the National Committee was promoting commitment to a comprehensive and integrated approach to risk reduction and impact prevention, ensuring business continuity in critical facilities, strengthening the monitoring and early warning system, promoting community awareness and active partnership among various stakeholders in addition to strengthening capacities and competences to effectively deal with emergencies through a national format and a unified emergency response and recovery system that promotes cooperation and complementarity among the various respondents.

With regard to the efforts of the National Centre for Multi-hazard Early Warning, the Centre is an important institution that has contributed to disaster risk reduction through the establishment of multi-hazard early warning systems that have been linked to an effective management system that ensures rapid response from society and all its private, governmental and military sectors. The Centre monitors the Sultanate's atmosphere and sea and its vicinity and analyses aerial data from its sources through observation stations, satellites and radars used to understand the current weather situation and anticipate changes. The Centre relies on numerical models to predict future weather conditions. This data is disseminated to individual users according to their operational needs. When monitoring or anticipating extreme weather conditions that are hazardous to life or property, the Centre responds by activating the adopted manual of exceptional operating procedures to issue weather reports, alerts and warnings. Detailed bulletins are issued to the National Centre for Emergency Management, the military and bodies affiliated to the National Emergency Management Committee with a detailed explanation of preparedness and activation of exceptional operating plans.

National projects implemented or in the implementation phase include: a) Rapid alarm system through cellular broadcasting; b) Flood and fluvial flood alert system; c) Contaminant tracking system; d) A modern radar network covering all governorates of the Sultanate; e) Modern satellite systems and their products; f) Expanded installation of aerial and marine observation stations; g) A network of marine radars to monitor sea waves and their height; h) A network of sea-surface measurement stations to detect tsunami hazards; i) An advanced system of numerical models.

State of Palestine

The national focal point stressed that the real danger facing the State was the continuation of daily occupation practices that violate international law. He reiterated Palestine's desire to move forward with the implementation of the Priority Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction 2021-2024 and that Palestine made progress in many actions required under the four priorities for action through the following projects:

1. Palestinian Disaster Risk Management System Development Project (2018 - 2020), through which a draft law and an institutional framework for disaster risk management system and the structure of the National Disaster Risk Management Centre were developed and approved.

2. The World Bank-funded Project on Risk Assessment and Resilience Integration in Palestine (2021-2023), which included the following main activities:

- Assess multiple hazards and their impacts on populations, infrastructure and buildings, risk exposure and vulnerability and collect them into models resulting in digital data and analytical maps.
- Develop principles or a guideline and a practical manual containing hands-on steps to strengthen resilience at the local level through a collaborative planning team that identifies programmes and plans suitable interventions.
- Formulation of resilience plans for local governments (20 local bodies).
- Formulation of resilience standards for critical infrastructure such as hospitals and schools.
- Capacity-building of the National Disaster Risk Management Centre.
- Preparation of the National Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction in Palestine (2023-2027).
- Preparation of a national public awareness campaign for disaster risk reduction in Palestine.

3. The National Online Platform for Disaster Risk Management and Reduction project (2023-2024) is designed to build a national information bank for disaster risk management and reduction in the State of Palestine for use by decision makers to build and draw strategic plans based on accurate and periodically updated information and data. Within this framework, the National Centre for Disaster Risk Management has worked to develop and design a comprehensive national online platform that includes:

1. National Disaster Risk Management Centre (NDMC) news website: This website is the Palestinian citizen's information window, introducing its role, activities and news as well as providing risk management and reduction awareness.

2. Risk Maps and Analytical Data Presentation website: Through the project "Integrating resilience into local government units in the West Bank and Gaza Strip", a web site was developed to present the results of risk analysis in the State of Palestine in the form of reports, digital data and detailed risk maps.

3. Comprehensive National Electronic Disaster Risk Management System (NDRMS): it is a nationwide computerized system based on the application of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Management, ISO 31000 and the KOZO internal control framework. It is a computerized State-level system run centrally from the highest levels of the State and with the involvement and participation of all institutions, bodies, actors, local and international partners (in accordance with the State's policy). All tasks are assigned to the various authorities in the State in order to achieve the objectives of disaster risk management at a national in an integrated manner. The competence of the various partners in executing their functions and responsibilities under the disaster risk management programme is assessed in accordance with a specific and nationally agreed structural framework and timelines set with partners. All remedial tasks diagnosed as a result of checks on partners' tasks and activities are then assigned to the relevant authorities for immediate implementation to maintain reasonable and acceptable levels of national disaster risk.

Kuwait

The national focal point provided progress as follows:

1. The Public Fire Force was tasked to follow up on the implementation of the Sendai Framework in 2017, and a study was undertaken on how to implement it at the national level.

2. With the support of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), a national capacity-building workshop was held in 2018 on the Sendai Framework, its indicators and its implementation. The State then initiated the development of the Kuwait Risk Matrix and plans to manage it as well as evaluation exercises.
3. A national consultative workshop on the mid-term review of the Sendai Framework was held in 2022 with the support of UNDRR and the submission of a voluntary national report to the United Nations Secretariat.
4. The National Committee for Monitoring the Implementation of the Sendai Framework was established with the mandate of His Excellency the Minister of Interior to include 74 members. The Committee held two workshops during which participants adopted: terminology and concepts for disaster risk reduction, a risk classification method, a scientific methodology for disaster risk management in Kuwait and a Risk Matrix (that included a list of 65 hazards). They also defined general procedures for dealing with all disasters and assigned various disaster management responsibilities to the relevant bodies.
5. Three national mini-committees have been established: 1) a mini-committee for the preparation of the National Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction which is currently being revised, 2) a mini-committee for national disaster risk statistics since 1980 (using DesInventar software) and 3) a committee in charge of the cities' resilience building programme 2030.
6. Actions under way for the coming period include: conducting a comprehensive risk assessment and statistics of disasters since 1980; the creation and adoption of early warning means, policy proposals and the promotion of society's risk culture and awareness-raising.

Libya

The national focal point presented Libya's progress as follows:

- This year, Libya was hit by a major disaster caused by the collapse of the Derna dam as a result of a tropical storm that hit the east of the country, affecting the city and killing nearly 10,000 people. In view of the State's belief in the need to participate in Arab forums on disaster risk reduction and in view of the effects of severe climate changes caused by disasters over recent years as a result of floods, earthquakes, storms, heat and cold waves, Libya was keen to participate in this meeting to share its progress and to explore solutions for disaster risk reduction and develop regional and local programmes of action. Libya is working towards the full integration and harmonization of the national strategy and the integration of disaster risk reduction programmes into sustainable development policies. Libya is also pursuing the implementation of the Rabat Declaration in all its provisions and according to standards,
- In strengthening partnerships and cooperation between the parties and stakeholders in the implementation of the Sendai Framework in Libya, it held meetings at the State level to reach a mechanism or establish a structure that would make the stakeholders act within a cooperative participatory framework. To this end, the National Government's Presidency has been approached with more than one proposal. After the Derna disaster, Libya's disaster and crisis issue was reviewed and began to take priority. Foundations and pillars for the establishment of a national strategy have been developed. The President of the National Government assigned the President of the National Council for Economic and Social Development to prepare a structure or department for disasters and crises. All relevant bodies were invited to determine their readiness to cooperate fully in the establishment of a national body representing the State in disaster risk reduction.
- With regard to the development of databases and statistics on disaster losses and impacts, Libya had not previously established a national losses database given the small number of disasters that

occurred as the only significant threat experienced was armed conflicts. However, after the disaster in the city of Derna, the Government promptly urged all relevant statistical authorities to establish a database to account for human losses and material damages in infrastructure and work is still ongoing. Partner entities and organizations are approached to take advantage of best practices in this field.

- With regard to early warning, the National Meteorological Centre is responsible for issuing weather bulletins and warnings in the absence of a disaster prevention system or database for the time being. A call to the various Libyan entities was issued in order to establish a national disaster reduction and early warning structure was issued but no common action materialised till now. Eager to establish a unified Arab early warning system that is easily accessible, participatory and accessible to modern technologies in the field of disaster risk reduction, Libya is in favour of joining forces to share knowledge, experiences and expertise among Arab States and to draw on the experiences of those affected by disasters and their actions before, during and after the disaster. When the city of Derna was affected by the disaster, the authorities had no prior experience in floods or dam collapses nor how to deal with them. Libya, therefore, appreciates all efforts made in sharing experiences such as this meeting.
- With regard to the role of youth and women in the development of strategies and programmes for disaster risk reduction and the lack of community awareness, it was important to undertake awareness-raising and educational programmes that explain the risks and how to deal with them and reduce their impact. In collaboration with the civil society and women's rights organizations, seminars and educational programmes were held to raise awareness among society and strengthen the role of women and young people, focusing on the psychological aspect of disaster losses.
- The focal point noted the importance of volunteering in disaster risk reduction, which was evident in the involvement of volunteers from all of Libya's cities to respond to the Derna disaster and provide the necessary humanitarian assistance. As this volunteering was not organized, Libya built local volunteer capacities and sought to develop a national strategy for early disaster preparedness to effectively assist those affected.
- Libya supports decisions based on science and technology and calls on scientific and academic research institutions to support the State in taking all necessary measures to reduce disaster risk.
- Through a government initiative to encourage investment in disaster risk reduction, Libya decided to focus in the future on better reconstruction under the criteria for enhancing resilience. In this regard, the Prime Minister set up a committee of experts and engineers specializing in infrastructure and urban planning, called the "Derna Reconstruction Commission", to rebuild Derna according to specific international resilience standards.

Arab Republic of Egypt

The national focal point presented progress as follows:

Egypt delivered a report on all its disaster risk reduction efforts to the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) during the last Dubai Conference. The Republic has achieved the following:

1. Officially adopted legislation on crisis and disaster management. The crisis and disaster sector has been assigned to the national focal point designated as a special secretariat with a Deputy Minister's rank.
2. 27 districts and governorates have established disaster risk reduction plans or crisis management systems.
3. Staff at institutions and ministries were trained in all these institutional plans either at the local level or in cooperation with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR-ROAS).

4. Crisis and disaster management issues have been incorporated into the curriculum and integrated practical training in cooperation with the armed forces and relevant national bodies (Saqr project) was introduced.
5. To promote the development of the State's operational plans and infrastructure, Egypt has prepared a fully State endorsed and comprehensive economic project, as follows:
 - Safe housing project through the demolition of slums in 38 high-risk slum areas.
 - National road project through the construction of more than 6000 km of roads.
 - Flood risk protection project: the project was reviewed following COP 27.
 - The presidential project "Decent Life", which prioritizes rural populations through the development of 122 villages in the first phase and is being continued in other villages.
 - The health initiative project through which Egypt was able to completely eliminate the C virus, and this expertise can be shared with other countries.
 - Expanding the use of clean energy (starting with work in 4 governorates and working in the rest of the governorates follows).
6. The city of Sharm el-Sheikh has been certified a "Centre for Resilience". Another 8 governorates are working to strengthen their own resilience capabilities.
7. Establishment of 8 integrated early warning systems piloted through the Prime Minister's Crisis Centre.
8. The establishment of the National Emergency and Public Safety Network and the establishment of the Road Control System in order to prevent overcrowding in crisis situations nationwide.

Kingdom of Morocco

The representative of the Kingdom introduced the progress made as follows:

The March 2004 earthquake in Husseiniyah was a turning point that prompted the Kingdom to invest in enhancing its risk monitoring and forecasting capabilities to respond proactively by adopting a comprehensive, effective and low-cost vision based on observing, monitoring, vigilance, warning, awareness-raising, prevention and integrating all these parameters into the Kingdom's development programmes. The Kingdom of Morocco has been working on:

1. Enhancing institutions' governance in disaster risk reduction by strengthening their human and material resources and establishing a centre for vigilance and harmonisation in 2008 that co-ordinates crisis management to ensure efficient and structured field intervention; as well as setting the Fund to combat the Effects of Natural Disasters in 2009.
2. The Integrated Natural Disaster Risk Management Programme was approved in 2016, enabling funding for 325 preventive projects worth US \$461 million through the Fund since 2015.
3. Recognizing the importance of scientific research and technology as effective means of disaster risk reduction, the Kingdom invests in modern technology associated with monitoring, forecasting and early warning systems as part of its strategic priorities. In this context, during the period 2015-2023, the Fund to Combat the Effects of Natural Disasters was able to fund 50 projects to establish monitoring, forecasting and warning systems, including the Integrated Flood Risk Management Support System project, the strengthening of Meteorological Monitoring project and the establishment of a Meteorological Phenomenon Forecast System. The Kingdom has a modern seismic monitoring system consisting of 42 monitoring stations. To enhance forecasting of weather hazards, the Kingdom has

acquired a supercomputer for weather forecast and the study of climate change capable of carrying out 1 billion operations per second.

4. To promote coordination, a Directorate was established in 2020 within the Ministry of Interior to oversee the Government's Natural Risk Management Policy, which includes a National Risk Prediction Centre tasked with proactively notifying local stakeholders about flood and inundation risks and a National Risk Observatory tasked with collecting, analysing and sharing risk data.

5. Four action guides have been established, covering all phases of disaster risk management, devising and implementing training programmes for national and local actors.

6. The National Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction 2020-2030 has been adopted and, to accelerate its implementation, a priority action plan 2021-2023 and a comprehensive action plan 2021-2026 have been developed.

The representative of the Directorate-General of Meteorology made the following intervention:

1. The Directorate worked to improve forecasts and early warning nationally and locally after the Extreme Phenomena Warning System went through several stages the latest of which was the establishment of the vigilance team at the level of regions (75 regions) and localities (1507 localities).

2. The Directorate provided the central and local authorities with the vigilance map as a means of anticipating extreme weather phenomena and as an early and accurate manifest of how to anticipate and manage climatic and natural disasters based on a twofold principle of anticipation and interaction that takes into account the regional and local dimensions of the indicated measures. The alertness map of Morocco's coasts, divided into 27 maritime areas, is available in an electronic vigilance platform calibrated at four levels designated by four warning colours according to the thresholds of each climate component and for each period of time. (Colours range from yellow that does not warrant reaction to red that indicates extreme danger and requires conveying and immediate warning and providing urgent and precautionary information to the population).

3. In order to accomplish expectations and early warning, the Directorate worked through partnerships with central and local authorities on projects to install and operate a ground and air-based monitoring network with automated stations, remote sensing, air and sea radars, a lightning monitoring network and supercomputers.

4. As part of the development of expertise, the Directorate is working to activate the partnership with other sectoral directorates to develop numerical and predictive models in conjunction with models for forest fires, fluvial and dam floods.

5. At the organizational level, the six regional directorates of the Directorate-General are working to improve the accuracy of forecasts and early warning alongside the National Weather Forecast Centre, while overseeing regional and local authorities' efforts in monitoring extreme situations through active participation and coordination in monitoring and command cells and by briefing the National Risk Centre, particularly regarding risk prone areas and sending text messages to communities. The Directorate-General is responsible for sending warnings to stakeholders at the central and local levels.

Islamic Republic of Mauritania

The national focal point presented progress as follows:

With regard to institutional and legal measures for disaster risk reduction and response, they include:

- Decree No. 17 of 2002 on the establishment of a ministerial committee for emergencies chaired by the Prime Minister;

- Permanent Emergency Coordination and Control Cell established by Joint Order No. MIPT/20020431
- The National Fund for Humanitarian Action, established by Decree No. 042-2002/M of 5 June 2002;
- At the regional level, Governors are in charge of coordinating prevention, preparedness and emergency response in accordance with Decree No. 17 of 2002.
- Establishment of the General Delegate for Civil Security and Crisis Management (DGSCGC) by Decree No. 2021 and 181-2021/M/MEDIC;
- Establishment of the Operational Control, Warning and Crisis Management Centre (COVACC) by Decree No. 181-2021/PM/MIDEC.
- The establishment of a national climate services framework in Mauritania by the National Climate Office, which aims to implement a global, integrated and results-oriented approach.

The national focal point also outlined the main task of the Inter-ministerial Committee for Disaster Risk Reduction which consists in analysing disaster conditions information and making decisions on resource mobilization and use. The Committee is piloted by the Prime Minister and the relevant Ministers as members. The focal point also presented the structure of the Inter-Ministerial Committee for Emergencies.

With regard to challenges and gaps, the focal point made the following elements:

- At the institutional level, the Inter-ministerial Committee for Emergencies is chaired at a high level (Prime Minister), but this Committee and its technical diversity do not integrate all key ministries with sectoral responsibility in this field.
- The inter-institutional coordination mechanism is not effective enough and represents overlaps in the respective authorities' roles and responsibilities.
- Above all, the process of declaring a disaster must be accompanied by a communication strategy.
- The National Plan ORSEC 2019 has not been prepared as there is a lack of a range of sectoral, regional and multi-hazard contingency plans.
- Lack of harmonization of disaster risk reduction concepts in most development strategies at the national and local levels.

One of the contact point's recommendations is to complement the legal and operational system for disaster risk reduction with all missing tools such as:

- Preparation and adoption of a law on disaster risk reduction orders and decisions;
- Updating the National Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and the National Plan of Action;
- Update the 2019 ORSEC plan, if it lays the foundations for institutional and operational mechanisms, formalize them by the Inter-Ministerial Committee for Emergencies and, above all, adopt them by all relevant stakeholders, civil society and the private sector.
- Establishment of a national contingency fund and safety stocks.
- Capacity-building at the national and regional levels.
- Establishment and strengthening of the information and early warning system.

Republic of Yemen

The national focal point provided progress as follows:

One of the oldest disasters in Yemen is the demolition of the Marib Dam, which caused great destruction and led to the displacement of 50,000 citizens to neighbouring countries. One of the most recent disasters was Cyclone Tej, which struck Yemen in the past weeks, revealing its weak infrastructure, basic services inadequacy, limited response and recovery capacities, weak institutions, societal vulnerability and war caused poverty. It also revealed the urgent need for assistance to enable Yemen to cope with these events and prevent them from becoming disasters. The availability of early warning has played a significant role in reducing losses despite its limited means.

Yemen is committed to implementing the Sendai Framework and the Arab Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and is committed to submitting a voluntary report on the Mid-term Review, as well as to implementing the Priority Action Plan 2021-2024. Implementation continues to be hampered by the country's current situation and by the scarcity of financial resources that disaster risk management lacks whether those allocated by the national budget or by partners, as resources are prioritized for humanitarian and relief response. However, Yemen has been able to accomplish the following:

1. National training for an integrated team from all ministries and sectors on the DesInventar disaster loss evaluation system has been carried out. The system is already being used.
2. The National Capacity-Building Project on Risk Knowledge and Governance is being implemented in cooperation with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) (Regional Office for Arab States). It aims to fill the institutional and legislative infrastructure gap and promote an integrated approach to disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. We hope to develop a national strategy and coordination mechanism for disaster risk reduction.

The Yemen Contact Point stressed Yemen's need for support to strengthen its resilience and reiterated its call for partners working in Yemen, especially United Nations agencies, to help them meet disaster risk reduction needs. She called on the Green Climate Fund to engage in such support and to change its current approach from financing relief work to funding disaster risk reduction programmes, especially since investment in this area is still inexistant.

Yemen currently needed to strengthen meteorology and multi-hazard early warning systems and linking them to their four components. It also needs support to build its civil defence capabilities, develop its disaster loss and damage assessment programme, build national databases, develop local disaster risk reduction strategies and help in their implementation.

Annex 2

Stakeholder groups presentations on progress in the implementation of the Priority Action Plan 2022-2024/Rabat Declaration

The Chair, Mr. Mohamed Jrifia invited stakeholders to make their interventions as follows:

Arab Group for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Disaster Risk Reduction

Dr Jane Deconha, Chair of the Group, presented the progress as follows:

1. The priorities of the Group's work are to address the lack of gender-sensitive data in disaster and climate risk reduction through data collection and the building of a gender-sensitive database as well as encouraging women's participation and leadership in decision-making on disaster risk reduction and climate change; Developing the capacity of institutions and Governments to integrate gender issues and involve women in the formulation and implementation of disaster risk reduction and climate change policies.
2. The group contributed to the drafting of chapter IV of the Regional Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction. The chapter was presented at the fifth Arab Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction. The voluntary statement 2021-2024 was presented and a special session on women's resilience to disasters and climate change was organized. The meeting's recommendations were included in the Rabat Declaration.
3. A research study on climate change displacement and perspectives on gender equality and women's empowerment issues was conducted. This study will serve as a basis for building the gender-sensitive database. The group participated in the launch of this study. A more comprehensive study is being undertaken and linked to peacebuilding.
4. Last March, a session was organized in collaboration with the League of Arab States on promoting climate-smart agriculture to empower women and build women's resilience to the displacement caused by climate change.
5. The Group organized its fifth consultative meeting on 27 July 2022 to discuss partners' contributions to the mid-term review process of the Sendai Framework and to plan activities to be implemented in 2023.
6. The research study by the Arab Water Council and UN-Women on "Gender and climate migration in Jordan and the Sudan: building women's economic and social resilience to climate risks and migration for survival in sustainable development" was finalized and published. The study was launched in November 2023.
7. A concept note is being prepared for a training course to further support capacity development on the relationship between gender, climate change and migration from a gender equality and women's empowerment perspective "reflecting the priorities of different groups of women, especially in the context of migration".

The Group's planned activities in 2024 include:

8. Publication of a study on: Climate policy analysis and development of mainstreaming tools from the perspective of gender equality and women's empowerment (Jordan case study).

9. Developing the first training manual on: designing and implementing national policies and programmes addressing climate-migration linkages, gender equality and women's rights (UN-Women-Arab Water Council).
10. Organization of a joint side event (UN-Women and the Arab Water Council) on gender and women's empowerment with regard to climate change impacts, during EXPO-Qatar (expected in March 2024).

Arab Consultative Group on Science and Technology for Disaster Risk Reduction

Dr Shadi Abdullah, Chair of the Group, presented the progress as follows:

1. The first Arab-African regional conference on harmonizing science, technology, policy and the private sector in disaster risk reduction was held (October 2023, Tunis). The Conference consisted of an opening session, 3 plenary meetings and 6 thematic sessions on, inter alia, the realities of science and technology, artificial intelligence, remote sensing, climate change, early warning, resilient cities and indigenous knowledge. A meeting was held with the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Representative for Disaster Risk Reduction on the margins of the Conference at which the revitalizing the role of regional science and technology groups on the global level was discussed. Proposals were made to adopt some of the tools produced by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and to work towards their application in the Arab States in addition to assisting some Arab States in assessing risks and activating the Joint Arab Geographical Chamber, early warning and early action as well as implementing the Conference's recommendation. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General commended the Group's efforts and recommended cooperation with the African Science and Technology Advisory Group in various areas.
2. Master's degree in disaster risk reduction project (curriculum) was finalized
3. Develop a road map aimed at strengthening the future role of science and technology in disaster risk reduction in the Arab region.
4. Design and implementation of a strategic plan for investing in science and technology for disaster risk reduction.
5. Preliminary assessments of the Tabarka (Tunisia) fire were made in July 2023 and assessment of the flood risk in Wadi Musa (Jordan) as well as the impacts of Storm Daniel in Derna (Libya).
6. Disseminating knowledge of disaster risk reduction, raising awareness and contributing to the RAR Regional Assessment Report and the GAR Global Assessment Report.
7. Establish an Arab platform for early warning and launch it at the Sixth Arab Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (Kuwait, October 2024).
8. Establish a geospatial room to promote integrated disaster risk reduction solutions
9. Organise events such as such as exhibitions to disseminate knowledge about disaster risk reduction and raise awareness among citizens.

Arab Group of Civil Society Organizations for Disaster Risk Reduction

Dr Mohamed Fattouhi, representative of the Group, shared the progress made as follows:

1. The Arab Network for Environment and Development "Raed", representing the Group and in collaboration and partnership with the League of Arab States, organized a side event during the Fifth Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (Rabat, November 2021), entitled: Climate Risk and Human Displacement Resulting from Disasters in the Arab Region: Challenges and Opportunities. The League of Arab States highlighted the need for a systematic approach to bridging the data and

information gap on growing human displacement in our Arab region to enable decision makers deal with this challenge.

2. In response to that recommendation, and pursuant to the decision of the fifth meeting of the Arab Coordination Mechanism for Disaster Risk Reduction (Rabat, June 2023), "Raed" is preparing a survey of development strategies and policies, disaster risk reduction and adaptation to climate change in the Arab region and their sensitivity to human displacement resulting from disasters and climate change. To carry out the study and ensure a participatory approach, a questionnaire was drafted to identify the Parties' achievements and needs. It will be distributed by Dr Magda Ghneim during this meeting.

3. The group prepared for and participated in COP 28 in Dubai through:

- Organizing and participating in about 50 events and dialogue on climate change in 11 Arab countries.
- Organized 3 regional dialogues with the participation of stakeholders and invited the national focal points for climate change and disaster reduction to attend.
- Organizing a large number of awareness-raising activities particularly targeting women, youth and the media
- Coordination with Arab Climate Negotiators Group/League of Arab States
- Issued national statements comprising messages to the Summit then a regional statement on Arab civil society.
- Organizing a number of side events.

4. In April 2023, the representative of the Arab Network for Environment and Development was elected as the regional representative for North Africa and West Asia on the Global Council of the Global Network of Civil Society Organizations for Disaster Reduction (GNDR). Most of the members of the North African and West Asian Regional Advisory Group continue to be members of the global network. A meeting of the Regional Advisory Group was held in September 2023 to discuss participation of Arab civil society organizations in the Global Disaster Reduction Network World Summit to be held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 20 to 22 February 2024.

5. Examples of the activities of the group's member associations include:

- Jordan - Friends of Jordan's Heritage Association: Participation in the meeting of the Jordanian National Committee of Members of the Global Network of Jordanian Civil Society Organizations to discuss how communities can manage climate risks and enhance resilience.
- Tunisia - Association for Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development in Bizerte: Organization of a workshop on the risks of drought in Tunisia and its environmental, economic and social impacts and the need to develop a strategy to rationalize the consumption of surface and groundwater, and participation in a workshop to follow up the preparation of the study on the legislative and institutional framework for disaster risk reduction.
- Kuwait Environment Society: Established the Kuwaiti Society for Crisis and Emergency Management and organised the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (13 October 2023) under the theme "Combating inequality for a resilient future" in cooperation with the Kuwaiti Red Crescent Society. Approximately 200 participants representing 20 governmental bodies and civic organizations took part.

- Yemen - Creative Foundation for Environment and Sustainable Development (Ibdaa): Organised a workshop in 2021 for the local authorities and security officers in Abyan governorate on conflict resolution practices and a workshop entitled "Strengthening community participation in disaster risk reduction procedures in Zinjibar and Modia Districts in 2021.

Major Group for Arab Children and Youth for Disaster Risk Reduction

Mr. Talal Ahmed, Chairman of the Group, and Mr. Haitham Yamani, Vice-Chairman, presented the progress made as follows:

The group focuses on supporting young people and children, building their capacities, promoting understanding and managing risks. It focuses on capacity building and empowering young people's and children's leaders within educational institutions like schools and universities and opening channels of communication between them and decision makers and in disaster risk reduction organizations. In this regard, the Egyptian Forum for Sustainable Development has fostered the establishment of similar national forums in several Arab States: in the Lebanese Republic, the Republic of Tunisia, the Kingdom of Morocco, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the Republic of Yemen, the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria and the State of Iraq. The objective is to localize sustainable development goals and disaster and crisis risk reduction. The Arab Network of National Forums for Sustainable Development has been accredited by the League of Arab States.

The Group:

1. Enabling young people and children to lead campaigns and initiatives such as The Live Green campaign in the wake of the pandemic, raising awareness and building the capacity of people affected by the pandemic and how to safely get rid of the negative effects of the pandemic's treatment measures.
2. Launching an initiative under the auspices of the Egyptian Ministry of Environment and disseminating it to forums in other countries on the safe disposal of plastic, since all waste obstructs drains and water distribution systems, thereby increasing the effects of floods and rains.
3. Acting with universities, research centres and students through workshops on disaster risk reduction. Work has also been done with children in this area.
4. Expand the representation of young people and children in the Major Arab Group. An online invitation to join was launched, clarifying the Group's terms of reference and objectives. Up to now, 69 members from various Arab countries (65% of them female, most of them students, including middle-level students and graduate students) have joined. Through discussions within the group, it was recommended that an induction platform be established to raise awareness of disaster and crisis risk reduction through social media channels.
5. Devising a capacity-building programme for youth, women and girls in climate action and disaster risk reduction in collaboration with the Ms. Leader project.
6. Holding an online seminar on the occasion of International Youth Day, in cooperation with the Arab Youth Network for Sustainable Development, entitled "Arab Youth - Challenges and Opportunities"
7. Design educational brochures concerning the emergency theme and the initial flood and disaster response to prevent loss and preserve lives and livelihoods. Design disaster risks related awareness-raising content to disseminate on social media.
8. Participation in a meeting organized by the UNESCO Office of the Gulf States and Yemen in November 2023, celebrating the World Day for Disaster Risk Reduction, on "Resilience in facing disasters in Yemen".

The challenges presented were: 1) the implications of the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, which further weakened the provision of adequate support for capacity-building for children and young people, especially in the area of disaster risk reduction; 2) The effects of conflicts and wars, particularly terrorist operations, in a number of States in the region, resulting in Governments' reordering their priorities; 3) weak funding and lack of partnership opportunities among stakeholders led to a shortage of funding for programmes to build children's and young people's disaster risk reduction capacities; 4) The need for civil society organizations to develop their strategies to attract young people and children and build their capacities; 5) Increased unemployment among youth groups as due to international and regional transformations affecting economic and development growth; 6) The need to develop and streamline the concepts of disaster risk reduction and its mechanisms and integrate them with climate concepts within educational curricula as well as extra-curricular activities.

Potential opportunities presented by the Group include: 1) leveraging networking to launch youth outreach platforms to further promote and raise awareness of disaster risk reduction concepts and inviting them to engage in regional disaster risk reduction activities; 2) Capitalize on the political will of the Arab region to pursue sustainable development goals and endeavour to make raising children's and young people's capacities in the field of disaster risk reduction a priority; 3) Maximize the use of regional activities to further implement and facilitate awareness-raising programmes on disaster risk reduction for young people and children.

Private Sector Alliance for Disaster-Resilient Communities

Mr. Husam Al-Gamal, Co-Chair of the National Alliance for the Private Sector (ARISE) in the Arab Republic of Egypt, then presented the progress achieved as follows:

The network is growing with more than 40 members, and its membership is open to all private sector companies, in Egypt, committed to disaster risk reduction. The group aims to provide a platform for private sector companies to share best practices and knowledge on disaster risk reduction, advocate policies and regulations that support the private sector's involvement in disaster risk reduction, as well as build partnerships between the private sector, government, academia and civil society to promote disaster risk reduction.

1. The group co-established a real estate committee at the initiative of the Private Alliance Network in the UAE bringing together real estate industry experts to devise tools and standards to promote real estate resilience.
2. The group held a disaster risk reduction awareness meeting with the Agriculture and Irrigation Committee of the Agriculture and Irrigation Association, the Adviser to the Minister of Agriculture and the President of the Climate Information Centre to raise agricultural companies' awareness of disaster risk reduction.
3. The group, in cooperation with the Egyptian Business Association, has developed a series of public and information events related to disaster risk reduction, they are currently being announced.
4. The group is developing a disaster risk reduction toolkit for Egyptian companies, which provides guidance on how to identify, assess and manage disaster risk.
5. The Group encourages the implementation of a multi-stakeholder approach among Egyptian companies, government authorities, academia and non-governmental organizations to implement various disaster risk reduction projects, including: Developing an AI-based ultra-accurate weather forecast system to cater for Egypt's and developing countries' needs, through a partnership between the

Nile University, GMA, IKEN and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction; setting up a precision farming project (controlled experiment) to highlight the importance of smart proactive irrigation and fertilizing in response to climate changes.

Finally, the group's chairman highlighted some of the most important companies in Egypt that implement disaster risk reduction measures and underlined their efforts, including: Nestlé, Vodafone, Pepsi, the Commercial International Bank, Egyptian Cement, Telecom Egypt, Orascom, Arab contractors, Raya Holding and Siemens.

Mr. Mahmoud Borai, Joint Chairman of the Private Sector Alliance of the United Arab Emirates (UAE ARISE) and member of the Global Private Sector Alliance, made a video presentation, about the establishment of the ARISE Private Sector Alliance in the United Arab Emirates in 2020. Its objectives are supporting SMEs, risk-sensitive investments, resilient infrastructure and the health sector, in collaboration with relevant government stakeholders, mainly the Dubai Police and the Executive Council.

For SMEs, several activities bringing together companies, governments and funding agencies to discuss how to make the UAE more resilient and sustainable in the business sector were prioritized. The health sector in Ras al-Khaimah has been working on a rehabilitation project after the COVID-19 pandemic to offer infected or recovering people relevant advice. To this end, an online platform was set up to benefit people in the region and beyond. Regarding risk-sensitive investments, a high-level dialogue on international cooperation to increase financing for disaster risk reduction and better reconstruction was held at the UN Pavilion in Expo Dubai 2020. One of the most important projects initiated with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction is the development of a tool for the resilience of the real estate sector (which represents 15% of Dubai's GDP and 10% of Abu Dhabi's GDP). It is a tool that was launched in the United Arab Emirates, but a committee of the real estate sector has been formed in Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, the United States of America, Canada, Georgia and the United Kingdom with which the UAE held several consultations it to fully develop the "tool". It is currently being tested in the United Arab Emirates. A digital platform to support the implementation of this tool, which we hope to disseminate globally, is in the pipeline. Working with Aldar on technology and start-up resilience acceleration is underway in order to enhance resilience by domiciliating start-ups in UAE offices, supporting them and helping them through. Capacity-building work and the launching of the Professional Development Programme for the Diploma of Resilience at the American University of Dubai in partnership with the Dubai Police was undertaken and three groups of local districts and institutions have been trained since 2022. Finally, the Global Resilience Forum was held in Dubai in partnership with the Dubai Police and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction in October 2023 and will be held annually.

Arab Media Network for Disaster Risk Reduction

Ms. Mei El Shafei, Chairperson of the Group, made a presentation on the Group's progress as follows:

The Arab Media Network aims to disseminate awareness and knowledge of the issue of disaster risk reduction. It also aims to develop and enhance the media's role as a vital mechanism in early warning, capacity-building and encourage exchange of know-how. The Network has undertaken a number of steps in this regard, including:

- Create a WhatsApp group for network members through which information, know-how, reports, topics and news as well as network members' publications are shared.
- Increase and continue disseminating disaster risk reduction related information.

- Special attention to the coverage of events, such as Typhoon Derna and the Moroccan earthquake
- Extensive coverage of the issue of climate change and its different dimensions

The Network participated in some important events and publicized the efforts of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Regional Office for Arab States, including:

- Virtual meeting organized by a group of Arab environmental and development organisations, notably a meeting organised by “Insan” Association for Environment and Development in Lebanon, on Arab media and climate change issues, the regional dialogue in preparation for the 28th Climate Summit entitled "the interlink between energy, water and food security in the framework of transition in the Arab region". Attending some scientific gatherings, including an early warning seminar organised amidst the Sixth Cairo Water Week, which recently concluded its proceedings in Cairo.
- Network members were honoured in many forums and received awards including Dr Nimatullah Abdulrahman, Head of Environment at Al-Ahram Newspaper; she won the League of Arab States Award for Media Excellence in the Field of the Environment this year for her series of topics on climate change and disasters caused by natural hazards.

Network members hope to implement some steps, including:

- Expanding the circle of participants to include all Arab countries and more networking and interaction between them.
- Organising capacity-building and awareness-raising activities and events.
- Providing space for the dissemination of press and information materials in the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction's bulletins.
- Activate and promote the Network's role in early warning.
- Enhanced communication with the national focal points for disaster risk reduction as well as other groups such as civil society, private sector, youth and children’s associations, etc.

Dr Mustafa Attiya, International Expert on Persons with Disabilities, then gave a presentation of his ongoing work with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction on integrating persons with disabilities into national disaster risk reduction strategies and policies, in line with the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Sustainable Development Goals, leaving no one behind and the slogan "Nothing about us without our involvement". This work includes: 1) Drafting a guidance note on the inclusion of persons with disabilities in national disaster risk reduction strategies in the Arab region; 2) Guidelines for the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the Arab region’s strategies; and 3) Mapping of Arab disabled persons' organizations for disaster risk reduction.

He then outlined the main actions to be taken as follows:

- Conduct regional and national workshops with disaster risk reduction stakeholders, including persons with disabilities and their associations.
- Provide basic training and education to first responders to disasters, mainly police forces, firefighters, emergency medical teams and disability rescue teams, so that they are aware of and ready to respond safely to the conditions and needs of persons with disabilities.
- Develop a training toolkit to provide disaster risk reduction workers in each country with guidance mechanisms, such as budgets, accommodation and recommendations, to ensure methodical support for persons with disabilities and disseminate this through early warning systems.

- Raising persons with disabilities' awareness of issues related to disaster risk reduction as well as enhancing accessibility and preparedness of society.

He noted the ongoing work in drafting the terms of reference to establish the Arab Group of Disabled Persons' Organizations for Disaster Risk Reduction as an informal voluntary group based on the design of participatory terms of reference that define the interrelations within the group and between the group and other Arab networks of disaster risk reduction stakeholders. The group will have chairs and co-chairs on a rotational basis at times.

Annex 3

Presentations of progress made by the United Nations and international and governmental organizations in implementing the Arab Priority Plan of Action 2021-2024

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Dr Tariq Sadik presented the Committee's activities, which included: 1) quantitative assessment of losses and damages caused by sea level rise in Alexandria, Egypt, 2) advanced evidence-based policymaking: joint measures to combat sand and dust storms in the Arab Mashreq, 3) build a science-policy interface based on the regional climate modelling projections by the Regional Initiative "RICCAR" for the Mashreq consisting of a set of six forecasts (SSP5-8.5) and 4) ESCWA Arab Risk Observatory: He also referred to ESCWA's participation as a co-author to the regional assessment report 2024 in chapters I: "Overview of disaster risk in the Arab region" and III: "Impact of climate change on drought and comprehensive risk management to address climate change", by calculating the frequency and intensity of drought based on the 12-month standardized precipitation index (SPI-12) using the Mashreq Data Range Scenario (SSP5-8.5).

League of Arab States

Mr. Mustafa al-Saadi, Technical Secretariat Officer of the Arab Coordination Mechanism for Disaster Risk Reduction, gave a presentation on the development, adoption and timetable for the implementation of the Arab Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction 2030, as well as progress in its implementation as follows:

1. Establishment of the Arab Coordination Mechanism for Disaster Risk Reduction, whose members are the national focal points of the Sendai Framework, international agencies, regional offices, civil society institutions, specialized Arab organizations and ministerial councils and committees. It held Five sessions/meetings, the latest of which was the was held in Rabat in May 2023, as well as the first Arab Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction 11 May 2022 at the headquarters of the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States.
2. Approval of the establishment of the Arab Centre for the Prevention of Earthquake Hazards and Other Natural Disasters in 2010, based in Algeria.
3. Institutional adjustments in the Arab League and the establishment of a department for disaster risk reduction.
4. To continue the procedures for the adoption of the statutes of the Arab-African Fund for Disaster Risk Reduction, which was approved at the Arab-African Summit held in Sirte in 2010.

Future activities to implement the Arab Strategy focus on:

- Enhanced cooperation, coordination and availability of data and information. In this regard, the Arab States have mandated the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development to cooperate with other relevant organizations and establish an electronic platform for the exchange of information and data among Arab States.
- Setting a regional framework in Arabic for monitoring and evaluation.

- Calculate the costs of disaster risk reduction.
- Regional assessment of vulnerabilities to disasters.
- Strengthen and institutionalize efforts.
- Preparation of the Arab regional report on the implementation of the Arab Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction 2030.
- Strengthening, enacting and implementing disaster risk reduction policies.
- Assess potential impacts on awareness and technical skills.
- Promote decentralization of decision-making.

International Federation of the Red Crescent and Red Cross Societies for Disaster Risk Reduction

Dr Sarah Walsh, Thematic Leader for Climate and Resilience, gave a presentation on the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) which comprises 191 national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies around the world. Together with the national societies and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) they form the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. They are three independent entities that are neither governmental institutions nor totally independent NGOs, that assist public authorities mainly in humanitarian affairs. Their activity is currently evolving to support risk-sensitive development. The Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in the Middle East and North Africa region are working to:

- Increase capacity-building in associations and develop early action protocols to support proactive action/early warning and engage in risk-based financing.
- Establishing separate units/sections with a special focus on disaster risk reduction.
- Support community volunteers in disaster risk reduction, launch awareness-raising and community preparedness campaigns and promote understanding of risks
- Forming a regional community of practitioners with a two-year road map to continue building practitioners' capacities in climate-smart disaster risk reduction.

United Nations Human Settlements Programme (Habitat)

Ms. Jasmine Mustafa, Climate Change Officer, gave a presentation on the Programme's focus areas associated with disaster risk reduction and provided examples of related programmes and activities as follows:

Building resilience in cities and urban areas:

- Strengthening social stability and resilience of Jordan's vulnerable communities and Syrian refugees in the centre of the country and the capital, Amman, against flash floods by assessing and mapping the risk of floods in the centre of the country, developing the city's resilience action plan accordingly, implementing pilot green infrastructure projects, strengthening community capacities and community awareness-raising campaigns.
- Promoting earthquake recovery in Syria: in Homs, support was provided for neighbourhood recovery planning, community disaster risk management, rapid damage assessment, structural assessment of buildings and facilities and holding participatory meetings with the local communities, as well as capacity-building, awareness-raising and training programmes and neighbourhood-level

evacuation maps. An integrated damage database was established in Aleppo and Latakia as a basis for prioritizing recovery interventions and developing the region-wide community recovery plan.

- Risk and vulnerability assessments were conducted in Zahla (Lebanon), Mafraq and Irbid (Jordan) and climate change concerns were mainstreamed into municipalities' master plans. Interventions included: innovative and climate resilient water supply techniques.
- Improve resilience to transboundary sand and dust storms in Kuwait and Iraq by enhancing knowledge and understanding of the conditions created by such storms and their impact on human health as well as measures to prevent, mitigate and restore the ecosystem in the areas where sand and dust storms originate in southern Iraq, and enhance the resilience of authorities and communities in southern Iraq to the impact of desertification and sandstorms which result from climate change.
- Examples of the Programme's actions include the Climate Week event in the Middle East and North Africa on "Urban ecosystem-based adaptation: examples of healthy Arab cities" and the regional dialogue on transboundary dust and sandstorms in the Arab region at COP 28.

International Organization for Migration

Ms. Masako Weida, representative of the organization, made a presentation on the organization's areas of work and activities to support the implementation of the priority action plan as follows:

- The operational framework for the migration crisis is the IOM's central reference point for comprehensive responses that include the mobility dimensions of the crisis, which was welcomed by the IOM Council through resolution 1243 in 2012. Disaster risk management is one of the key pillars of the Framework for Intervention to enhance resilience and reduce disaster losses in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. The organization also operates within the framework of the Institutional Strategy on Migration, Environment and Climate Change 2021-2030.
- The project to strengthen Libya's disaster risk management capacity by enhancing the preparedness and response capacities of the local authorities and the resilience of disaster-affected and at-risk communities.
- One of the projects planned for implementation is the project " harnessing synergies between climate change adaptation and risk reduction in migrant-inclusive health system responses", (Jordan, Iraq and Lebanon) by improving the evidence base on intersections between climate change, risk reduction, health and well-being, human mobility and supporting countries to integrate human mobility perspective into national public health adaptation and disaster risk reduction strategies, as well as enhancing understanding of the health impacts of climate change among host and migrant communities in target countries.
- The organization participates in a number of international inter-agency initiatives and alliances on disaster risk reduction such as the CADRI Disaster Reduction Capacity Assessment Initiative, the Centre of excellence to enhance resilience to disasters and climate change and Disaster Displacement Platform, the Early Action Risk-Conscious Partnership, Climate Risk Initiative and Early Warning Systems (CREWS).

World Food Programme

Mr. Omar Ali El-Rufai presented the Programme's disaster risk reduction activities as follows:

- Emergency preparedness, response and recovery: WFP leads the cluster working in this area in collaboration with other agencies, and targets 39 million people in the Arab region.
- Analysis, monitoring, early warning, forecasting and early action: proactive action and preparedness baseline setting, conflict analysis, vulnerability analysis, food security/strategic audits to eradicate hunger, advocacy for coordinated access.
- Building resilience and protecting the most vulnerable: through strengthening climate-smart agricultural infrastructure, nature-based solutions and seasonal analysis for interventions.
- Support safety nets and social protection: policies, institutional arrangements, programmes, delivery systems and partnership with the governmental partners.
- Production of materials and publications such as early warning watch list, which issues new alerts and initiates active alarms every month.
- Integration of disaster risk reduction into WFP operations such as corporate alert system (CAS), thematic analysis, context-specific support in the field, scenario-building, contingency planning, field research on demand, economic forecast modelling, regional seasonal forecasts, meteorological analysis of fast and slow emerging natural hazards.
- Joint FAO-WFP efforts for the identification of hunger hotspots, early warning and early action profiles, readiness of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, and Security Council resolution 2417 monitoring report.

United Nations Office for Project Services

Dr. Mona Al-Banna provided an overview of the Office and its key activities relating to disaster risk reduction worldwide, as follows:

- In discharging its mandate, and in line with sustainable development goals 3, 6, 11, 13 and 16, one of UNOPS' strategic objectives are to focus on disaster risk reduction, climate change and strengthening health infrastructure. The Office's projects and efforts contribute to the promotion of flexible infrastructure, environmental management and green projects in seeking to achieve inclusive development.
- In the Latin America region in February 2023, our colleagues delivered a (virtual) presentation at the Eighth Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction in Latin America and the Caribbean focusing on comprehensive climate action infrastructure. In September 2023, UNOPS participated as a member of the CADRI assessment team in Costa Rica, in conjunction with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR).
- In the Asia region, UNOPS designs and implements projects around the world to reduce disaster vulnerability and raise awareness as to the importance of reducing disaster risks and loss of life, livelihoods and health. Sri Lanka's flood protection project is an excellent example worth celebrating. Through improved flood management infrastructure and training, UNOPS assisted Mannar's communities to become more resilient. The project combines traditional infrastructure with nature-based solutions and capacity building in order to devise an integrated solution that helps prepare for future flood events that are expected to become more frequent and severe due to climate change. Many beneficiaries assisted in the implementation of the project, which included the rehabilitation of water ponds and the construction of sewerage systems. The project enhances communities' resilience as it contributes to nationally-determined efforts in Sri Lanka (Paris Agreement policy commitments on climate change) and progress towards achieving 10 out of 17 SDGs.

- Marking of the World Day for Disaster Risk Reduction in Jamaica. Thanks to the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, UNOPS supported the rehabilitation of the Riverton Boulevard in Jamaica, thus addressing challenges related to poor road conditions and sewage systems that impeded effective solid waste management efforts. Also, the Office designed and built roads to improve communication from the more developed urban centre in Kingston to the country's largest landfill facility.

Concluding, the Chair thanked all participants in the meeting for their inputs and presentations on progress made in the implementation of the Rabat Declaration and Priority Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction 2021-2024, and then summarized the first day's proceedings and the key messages emanating from it as follows:

- The extent of implementation of the Rabat Declaration and of the Priority Action Plan 2021-2024, as reported through UNDRR-developed reporting format and the Sendai Framework Monitoring System, appears to be moderate and inadequate despite the considerable efforts and achievements that are made by Arab States.
- The importance for Arab States to increase their periodic reporting on progress in the implementation of the Sendai Framework on the Sendai Framework Monitoring System was stressed as the official reporting platform.
- Arab States that have not reported to UNDRR were requested to report on their progress in implementing the Rabat Declaration and Priority Plan of Action, and to provide UNDRR with their reporting using the recommended format as soon as possible.
- The importance of speeding up the implementation of the Sendai Framework in the region and building global partnerships for capacity-building, technology transfer and research in disaster risk reduction was emphasized. An inter-Arab early warning platform has been suggested in line with WMO's protocols and in accordance with established practice in other regions of the world.
- The importance of leveraging on developed countries' experience in establishing effective national early warning mechanisms was emphasized.

Annex 4

Outcomes of the working groups at the fifth session

Number	Activity	Timeline
<u>Priority 1: Understanding disaster risk</u>		
1	Dissemination and fostering of knowledge and culture of disaster risk reduction based on science and technology at the level of communities, curricula, facilitators, decision makers, media and civil society organizations through workshops, fora and sensitization meetings, and such like	2024
2	Inventory and exchange of best practices, experiments and experiences at the Arab States' level to build on external experiences in the use of advanced disaster risk assessment techniques at all levels	2024-2028
3	Inclusion of universities and research centres on disaster risk reduction concepts and urging them to develop research plans on DRR	2024-2028
4	Regular forums, meetings and partnerships among Arab Governments	2024-2028
5	Create interactive platforms that allow data to be taken and uploaded for regular updates	2024-2028
6	Improve data collection and management and enhance access to data in line with international organization standards	2024-2028
7	Develop participatory scientific frameworks and methods to identify national resilience weaknesses and monitor, analyse and assess systems' flexibility in line with Sendai Framework	2024-2028
8	Build the capacity of local innovators and scientific networks and provide the necessary capabilities to identify context-specific and bespoke solutions to meet regional needs through forums and exchange of experiences, knowledge and lessons learned.	2024-2028
<u>Priority 2: Strengthening disaster risk governance</u>		
1	Pillar 1: National assessments on the use of state-of-the-art technology and scientific knowledge to identify gaps, shortcomings, required resources and effectiveness of coordination systems that enhance science-based decision-making	
2	Review and update relevant existing strategies and coordination mechanisms to ensure that revised approaches and updates will contribute to the change pursued.	
3	Pillar II: Setting-up of a national advisory group to support policymakers in decision-making, in accordance with the country's context.	
4	Pillar 3: Compilation of high-level technical reports for decision makers using simplified, understandable and accessible materials that can be used in mid- and long-term disaster risk reduction planning efforts	
5	Pillar 4: Promote the organization of innovation and exchange platforms, forums and exhibitions, to facilitate the retention of the latest technologies in disaster risk reduction.	
6	Pillar 5: Review and update existing policies to ensure that they facilitate cooperation and partnership in disaster risk reduction between the Government entities, the private sector and academia.	
7	Pillars 6 & 7: Promote public-private partnerships and integrate disaster risk reduction into relevant sectors and policies, such as agriculture,	

	infrastructure, water, environment, finance (economic development risks), and infrastructure (building rules and regulations).	
8	Pillar 8: Develop disaster risk reduction education models and applications, social media platforms, curricula and other simplified technology tools to enhance individuals' and communities' disaster risk reduction capacities and awareness.	
9	Pillar 9: Develop a framework and standard operating procedures for different sectors with a focus on gender and disability needs.	
<u>Priority 3: Investing in disaster risk reduction to enhance resilience</u>		
1	Familiarize the private sector with national disaster risk reduction strategies as well as with activities and programmes implemented by disaster risk reduction stakeholders.	2025
2	Conduct cost-benefit analyses (economic spinoffs) to enable public and private sectors to invest in disaster risk reduction.	2025
3	National governments to build public-private partnerships through the development of a mechanism/memorandum of understanding to build sustainable partnership aimed at supporting the implementation of the National Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction, including ensuring that the private sector is represented in national disaster risk reduction structures/committees and incorporated into the Forum/Commission's terms of reference.	2025
4	Encourage private sector operators that invest in disaster risk reduction by reducing taxes, providing facilities, incentives and customs duties exemptions.	2025-2026
5	Determine a proportion of CSR funding to support national disaster risk reduction activities.	2026
6	Government directives to enforce building regulations and the use of technological materials in the construction of residential buildings and public institutions and to establish a monitoring mechanism by the competent authorities.	2025-2026
7	Private sector to finance scientific research and publications on the use of technology as a means for disaster risk reduction.	2026-2028
8	Work with private technology and telecommunications companies in the production of technology, applications and platforms for disaster risk reduction.	2027
9	Network small local private companies with their nation-wide counterparts to support the launch of disaster risk reduction initiatives.	2027-2028
10	Governments to dedicate specific programmes to support SMEs to withstand disasters while giving preference to companies that meet ESG sustainability standards.	2028
11	Governments, in partnership with the private sector, allocate funding to enhance the resilience of priority groups such as the elderly and persons with disabilities.	2028
<u>Priority 4: Enhanced preparedness for effective response and better reconstruction</u>		
1	Promote common understanding and synergies between the public and private sectors to drive the design, financing, construction, operation, maintenance, endurance testing, refurbishment and reconstruction of flexible and sustainable infrastructure. - Standardization of national terminology/concepts on crises and risks: adopting and updating safety and flexibility standards on the infrastructure of various risks and updating legislation on flooding.	2025-2026

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Private and public sectors to develop a framework and methodology for the exchange of experiences in support of the realization of the principles of community partnership and resilience of cities - Development of necessary legislation - Update infrastructure safety and flexibility standards in accordance with the National Risk Register * Development of an operational/guidance manual for flexibility criteria in critical private sectors * Awareness campaign to promote intersectoral understanding to harmonize community understanding and awareness 	
2	<p>Supporting the role of multidisciplinary science and technology in effective pre-disaster planning, preparedness, response, rehabilitation, recovery for better reconstruction.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Engaging multidisciplinary science and technology institutions in all stages of disaster risk management - Strengthening institutions' capacities - Empowering scientific, research and technical institutions to contribute to the development of effective planning methods at all stages - Fostering the exploitation of research outputs and technological development in planning 	
3	<p>Develop efficient and effective collaboration between the scientific community, disaster managers and the business sector by leveraging rapid developments in ICT, including artificial intelligence and big data.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Harnessing technology at all stages of disaster risk management - Optimize the use of global disaster risk reduction science according to the nature of the risk 	
4	<p>Promote the application of effective nature-based solutions in regional, national and local disaster risk reduction policies and strategies; disaster preparedness, recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction strategies; and climate change adaptation plans.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop studies to implement nature-based solutions by risk - Stimulate the use of nature-based solutions and prioritize the implementation of policies and strategies at various levels - Build partnerships with international and global environmental organizations working in the field of nature-based solutions to stimulate the adoption of these solutions 	
5	<p>Strengthen cooperation at all levels between global, regional and national governments, the private sector and academia in knowledge-sharing, capacity-building and strengthen multi-hazard early warning systems that improve disaster preparedness and proactive action to address them.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coordination of intersectoral cooperation between national, local and private stakeholders - Consolidation of early warning systems at the national and local levels - Regional cooperation and coordination among States of transboundary risks - Establishment of a multi-hazard early warning platform at the Arab regional level 	

Annex 5

Outcomes of local consultation on activating the Dubai Call to Action: expanding the capacity to counter a changing climate

This session focused on activating the Dubai Call to Action as well as formulating priority actions derived from the Call to Action to be incorporated into the 2025-2028 Priority Action Plan.

Following the introduction to the session, Iraq presented its reconstruction efforts in Anbar after the destructions by ISIS.

Following the presentation of the Dubai Call to Action, the questions below were asked at the local level:

- What are the main challenges and needs of the city?
- What do local governments from national authorities?
- In the ideal scenario, what will achievements look like? What will local governments achieve?
- What can be achieved from this Declaration in one, two and four years?

In response to the first question, local representatives from Comoros, Morocco, Mauritania and Tunisia highlighted the following challenges:

- Lack of infrastructure.
- Absence of a coherent national strategy that takes into account infrastructure deficiencies.
- Centralization in government administrative structures.
- Lack of awareness.
- Data collection challenges.
- Limited integration of disaster risk reduction considerations into local strategies.
- Limited human resources and capacities.
- Financial constraints at the national level and limited access to international finance.
- Lack of disaster risk reduction as a component in education.
- Limited participation of civil society and stakeholders.

Due to time constraints, the discussion then focused on adding the following priority measures in each priority action under Sendai Framework:

Priority 1: Understanding disaster risk

1. Develop capacities in early warning systems.
2. Draft a comprehensive capacity development strategy for all relevant stakeholders.
3. Communicate and cooperate with all stakeholders.

4. Conduct simulations and training activities on how to respond to disasters.
5. Develop disaster description material
6. Build the capacities of the entire community
7. Facilitate the exchange of experiences between cities
8. Assess disaster impact
9. Invite researchers to meetings and consultations at the city level
10. Feature disaster risk reduction in primary education curricula.

Priority 2: Strengthening risk governance

1. Enhance investment decentralization
2. Map displacement sites
3. Strengthen infrastructure and planning
4. Enhance access to and management of data
5. Strengthen cooperation between national governments on data
6. Consolidate data and develop a national database of such data
7. Promote decentralization
8. Transpose the Sendai Framework within policies

Priority 3: Investing in disaster risk reduction to enhance resilience

1. Conduct a comprehensive analysis of current land use and zoning plans to be shared with the private sector for investment purposes.
2. Improve and upgrade mechanisms and methods to promote private sector investment in infrastructure.
3. Improve building laws and regulations to ensure their sustainability in the event of earthquakes and other hazards.
4. Include ISO standards as a condition for investment (especially with the private sector).
5. Feed university research into urban development, create a dynamic platform for cities to access student projects and promote student competitions designed for specific development initiatives.

Priority 4: Enhanced preparedness for effective response and better reconstruction

1. Promote inter-city exchange/learning
2. Rebuild better using environmentally friendly methods/techniques
3. Identify better ways of disseminating data to ensure that it is available to city decision makers (e.g., publishing data and sharing it with the governor which is later circulated to city officials).

Annex 6

Outcomes of session 7: Preparations for the Sixth Arab Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction/Regional Consultation on the 2025-2028 Priority Action Plan

Number	Activity	Duration
<u>Priority 1: Understanding disaster risk</u>		
<i>Integrating disaster risk reduction concepts into educational curricula:</i>		
1	Integrate disaster risk reduction concepts into curricula at all levels of education by focusing on the practical and theoretical aspects through relevant curricula or by integrating risk reduction concepts into educational curricula	2024-2026
2	Strengthen capacity of staff to teach curricula at all levels of education and to perform activities that aim at a better understanding disaster risks	2025-2028
3	Include, in the agenda of the Council of Arab Ministers in charge of higher education and scientific research, the integration of disaster risk reduction concepts in different educational levels (at the earliest meeting)	At the earliest meeting
<i>Preparation and determination of historical databases of disaster impact/losses</i>		
4	Draft a request by UNDRR addressed to Member States through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the purpose of identifying the entity in charge of collecting disaster risk data and stimulating cooperation with focal points	First quarter of 2024
5	We urge and recommend that Arab States collect data using either a national application that reports directly to the relevant platforms of UNDRR Office and ensure that this recommendation is included in the agenda of the Council of Arab Ministers in charge of crises and disasters	2024
6	Recommend the use of data in multi-hazard early warning systems and call for the improvement of the warning system and the provision of joint action in developing countries with a view to developing States' resilience to hazards and disasters.	
<i>Budgeting</i>		
7	Recommend that Member States include in their annual budgets a budget line or special fund for disasters and crises.	
8	Recommend that advantage be taken of funding opportunities such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF) as well as the UN-supported Early Warning for All initiative to develop warning systems in Arab countries, and to tap private sector financing in disaster risk reduction	As soon as possible
<i>Building human capacities to design disaster risk reduction action plans</i>		
9	Comprehensive development of training mechanisms, methods and approaches for disaster risk reduction with a special focus on methods of evaluation of training programmes.	2024-2028
10	Enhance efforts to build the capacity of the Arab media sector as well as civil society organizations by focusing on disaster risk reduction concepts	2024-2028
11	Increased capacity-building of local and municipal stakeholders in a good understanding of disaster risks in the three phases	2024-2028
12	Importance of building the capacities of people of religion and cultural stakeholders in addition to the sectors of children, youth, women, people with disabilities and elderly to better understand the risks posed by disasters	
<i>Conduct various risk assessments</i>		

13	Recommend that more importance is accorded to exchanging expertise and experiences among Arab States and disseminating and valuing successful models to benefit from them.	2024-2028
14	Recommend the use of modern technologies with multiple applications when conducting risk assessments and digital mapping of risks.	2024-2028
Priority 2: Strengthening disaster risk governance		
1	Strengthening science-based and risk-sensitive governance and decision-making	2026
2	Developing or updating disaster risk reduction body of legislation	2027
3	Strengthening local and national multi-ministerial, multisectoral and stakeholder forums	2027
4	Building local authorities' capacity to develop local indicators to measure stakeholder participation	2028
5	Using dedicated indicators for the Sendai Framework Monitoring System to measure progress in the implementation of national disaster risk reduction strategies	2027
6	Enhancing coordination between health, agriculture and veterinary entities and disaster risk reduction institutions to respond to potential biological hazards	2027
7	Using dedicated indicators for the Sendai Framework Monitoring System to measure progress in the implementation of national disaster risk reduction strategies	2028
8	Creating and/or developing mechanisms to mitigate disaster risks that lead to displacement	2028
9	Developing and implementing sustainable programmes for environmental resources and ecosystems	2028
10	Identifying technology needs for disaster risk reduction	2025
11	Developing mechanisms to communicate with global, regional and sub-regional organizations on agreed terms to attract technologies for disaster risk reduction	2028
Priority 3: Investing in disaster risk reduction to enhance resilience		
1	Investing in community capacity-building through community training and workshops on disaster risk reduction and resilience building through the establishment of accredited committees	2025
2	Developing campaigns to raise awareness of disaster risk reduction practices and further activate the role of the private sector by showcasing the benefits of investing in resilient infrastructure	2025
3	Organizing and facilitating forums and conferences to promote dialogue between the private sector, experts and academia on innovative investment in disaster risk reduction	2025
4	Launching awareness-raising campaigns targeting companies to highlight returns on investment in disaster risk reduction	2025
5	Collaborating with insurance companies to develop innovative insurance products for disaster-prone areas and exploring opportunities to create innovative green funds specifically for disaster risk reduction initiatives	2026
6	Facilitating partnerships between insurance companies, green sustainability funds and local governments to encourage investment	2026
7	Establishing mentoring programmes for youth interested in disaster risk reduction professional opportunities and investing in youth, women and vulnerable groups	2026

8	Launching initiatives to invest in women's empowerment in disaster-prone areas and to provide them with the skills needed to enhance community resilience	2026
9	Developing projects targeting vulnerable groups to enhance their resilience to disasters	2027
10	Comprehensive risk assessments at the local and national levels to identify vulnerability and key risks, and to share evaluation data and results	2027
11	Pursuing collaboration with local and national governance to develop policies based on evaluation data and allocating resources based on assessment results.	2027
12	Operationalizing cooperation frameworks with United Nations entities to ensure investment principles in disaster risk reduction through the operationalization of joint programmes and projects	2027
13	Developing mechanisms to communicate with global and regional organizations on agreed terms with the aim of attracting technologies for disaster risk reduction	2027
14	Pursuing efforts with communities to ensure sustainable disaster response capacity building, monitor and evaluate the impact of investments on disaster risk reduction, and adjust strategies based on lessons learned.	2028
15	Pursuing the facilitation of public-private partnerships, especially by investing in the latest techniques and technology in disaster risk reduction initiatives.	2028
<u>Priority 4: Enhanced preparedness for effective response and better reconstruction</u>		
1	Building national, international and regional partnerships and maximizing the private sector's role in disaster risk reduction.	2-3 years
2	Supporting the governance of municipalities and local authorities to promote awareness-raising campaigns at the national level and include civil society as a priority, without leaving out minorities and persons with special needs.	2 years
3	Strengthening cooperation between public and private sectors and coordination with educational, research and technological institutions.	3-4 years
4	Creating and operationalizing a national structural framework for disaster risk reduction that encompasses all public sectors and various areas.	4-5 years
5	Aligning modern early warning systems with national infrastructure to enable communities to help vulnerable groups and those with special needs.	2-3 years
6	Identifying and addressing weaknesses and vulnerabilities in national and regional early warning systems.	2-3 years
7	Providing financial, technical and technical support in all that concerns early warning systems.	2-3 years