UNDRR

UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

The UNDRR Stakeholder Engagement Mechanism for the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and its Stakeholder Advisory Group

Terms of Reference

- 28 June 2019 -

1. Introduction

The year 2015 marked the beginning of a new era, with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development clearly setting the imperative for change for the world. Universal in scope, it recognizes each country's primary responsibility for its own sustainable development. At the same time, the 2030 Agenda calls for collective action at unprecedented scale.

However, sustainable development or the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) cannot be attained without disaster risk reduction. Disasters, further exacerbated by climate change, have severe impacts on the worlds' efforts to eradicate poverty and build long-lasting peace and security for all as they cause thousands of deaths every year and gravely curtail economic growth. While the death toll in recent years has decreased, disasters affect millions of people each year. According to the Norwegian Refugee Council's Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), sudden-onset disasters displace an average of 25 million people a year. Recurrent setbacks to development caused by disasters thereby affect particularly the poor and most vulnerable populations and people living in fragile and conflict-affected countries. By 2030, there could be 325 million people trapped in poverty and exposed to the full range of natural hazards and climate extremes, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia[1].

Economic losses cause further stress on marginalised and most vulnerable populations. Annual economic losses from earthquakes, tsunamis, cyclones and flooding soared to an estimated at USD300 billion globally[2]. In 2017, insured losses amounted to USD 144 billion, with total economic damages estimated at USD 520 billion. In the Caribbean region, climate change is estimated to contribute an additional USD1.4 billion to the expected average annual losses from cyclone wind damage[3]. For Small Island Developing States (SIDs), average annual losses to disasters are equivalent to almost 20 per cent of their total social expenditure, whereas heavily indebted middle-income countries and Least Developed

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[1] Overseas Development Institute (ODI), October 2013, The geography of poverty, disasters and climate extremes in 2030
[2] 2015 Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction
https://www.preventionweb.net/english/hyogo/gar/2015/en/home/index.html
[3] 2015 Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction

Countries witness low commodity prices and financial shocks restrain growth rates below the 7 per cent needed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Strengthening the resilience of communities and preventing future disaster events from pulling more people into poverty will therefore require significant adjustments in the way we think, live and invest. Eradicating extreme poverty and achieving the SDGs thereby requires that disaster risk reduction be integrated in core social, economic and development planning.

2. Overview of global policy agreements on disaster risk reduction

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, adopted by the UN Member States at the Third World Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, Japan on 18 March 2015, and endorsed by the UN GA with Resolution A/RES/69/283, provides a comprehensive approach to disaster risk reduction that covers risks of small- and large-scale disasters triggered by natural or man-made hazards. It guides the multi-hazard management of disaster risk in development at all levels, within and across sectors. The Sendai Framework is a pledge to take a proactive shift from managing disasters to managing risk, and the implementation of development, economic, and environmental and climate change policies that reduce existing risk, prevent the creation of new risk and build resilience.

The call for risk-informed development has been mirrored in all following post-2015 development agreements, which include measures to reduce disaster risk as well as clear cross-references to the Sendai Framework. Their implementation will be enhanced, and their commitments fulfilled, if they are aligned to the Sendai Framework. For example, the SDGs include 25 targets associated with disaster risk reduction in 10 of the 17 SDGs related to poverty, ending hunger, ensuring healthy lives, education, sustainable management of water, building resilient infrastructure, resilient cities, climate change and marine and terrestrial ecosystems[4]. SDGs 1 (Poverty), 11 (Urban Resilience), and 13 (Climate Change) also share common indicators and data sets with indicators for the Sendai Framework targets. Strong references to disaster risk reduction are present in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the New Urban Agenda and the Paris Climate Agreement.

Commitment and action for a coherent approach to disaster risk reduction, climate change action and sustainable development is becoming more urgent. In October 2017, a Special ECOSOC Meeting was convened on "Aftermath of recent hurricanes: Achieving a risk-informed and resilient 2030 Agenda". The Presidential statement calls for greater investment in disaster risk reduction, including predictable, timely, flexible and adequate risk-informed financing, and urges greater risk-informed, evidence-based investment in infrastructure and housing. It also encouraged the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development to explore disaster resilient investing, and called on the Forum on Financing for Development to discuss financing for disaster risk reduction in 2018. Similarly, the High Level Political Forum (2018 and 2019), the UN Water Summit 2018 and Climate Summit 2019 must include strong focus on better understanding, communication on and data availability of disaster loss and risk.

3. Building an all-of-society approach to DRR to achieve risk-informed development

Like the SDGs and the Paris Climate Agreement, the Sendai Framework highlights that resilient sustainable development will only be possible through an all-of-society approach.

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[4] http://www.unisdr.org/files/46052_disasterriskreductioninthe2030agend.pdf

The Sendai Framework thereby elaborates the role of stakeholders in the follow up and implementation of the Framework in the Preamble, with further details set out in Section V[5]:

There has to be a broader and a more people-centred preventive approach to disaster risk. Disaster risk reduction practices need to be multi-hazard and multisectoral, inclusive and accessible in order to be efficient and effective. While recognizing their leading, regulatory and coordination role, Governments should engage with relevant stakeholders, including women, children and youth, persons with disabilities, poor people, migrants, indigenous peoples, volunteers, the community of practitioners and older persons in the design and implementation of policies, plans and standards. There is a need for the public and private sectors and civil society organizations, as well as academia and scientific and research institutions, to work more closely together and to create opportunities for collaboration, and for businesses to integrate disaster risk into their management practices. (Sendai Preamble, Para 7)

The UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), under the leadership of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, has been mandated by the UN General Assembly with supporting the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, including *'reinforcing a culture of prevention among relevant stakeholders through supporting development of standards by experts and technical organizations, advocacy initiatives and dissemination of disaster risk information, policies and practices, as well as by providing education and training on disaster risk reduction through affiliated organizations (Sendai Para 48c)).*

UNDRR has been recognized as a leader in promoting and enabling an inclusive approach to disaster risk reduction. The biennial Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GP), created by the UN General Assembly in 2006, was one of the first global UN-led conference bringing together Governments and stakeholders from all walks of life. The fifth session of the Global Platform, hosted by the Government of Mexico in May 2017, brought together over 5000 participants from Governments and stakeholder groups to discuss progress in Sendai implementation and outline next steps to ensure that countries can achieve Sendai Framework.

Reflecting the paradigm shift of the SDGs and the Sendai Framework, UNDRR is seeking to systematize and strengthen its partnerships with stakeholders through a new mechanism, the 'UNDRR Stakeholder Engagement Mechanism' (UNDRR-SEM). The UNDRR-SEM creates an open and structured avenue for close engagement of stakeholders with UNDRR and in the implementation of the Sendai Framework, with systematic attention paid to the needs of the most marginalised and vulnerable populations so that no one is left behind. Key functions are to enable an inclusive and broad movement for the Sendai Framework, influence policy design and implementation, strengthen citizen-led and social accountability mechanisms, and promote coordination and harmonization between different stakeholder groups, including for their interaction with the United Nations, Member States, Parliamentarians and other governmental organizations.

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[5] https://www.preventionweb.net/files/43291_sendaiframeworkfordrren.pdf
V. Role of stakeholders
35. While States have the overall responsibility for reducing disaster risk, it is a shared responsibility between Governments and relevant stakeholders. In particular, non-State stakeholders play an important role as enablers in providing support to States, in accordance with national policies, laws and regulations, in the implementation of the present Framework at local, national, regional and global levels. Their commitment, goodwill, knowledge, experience and resources will be required.
36. When determining specific roles and responsibilities for stakeholders, and at the same time building on existing relevant international instruments, States should encourage the following actions on the part of all public and private stakeholders….

Aligned with the UNDRR Partnership and Stakeholder Strategy, the UNDRR -SEM offers representational space for all 'non-state' Sendai stakeholders as set out in Paras 36 and 48 of the Sendai Framework. United Nations system entities, Parliamentarians, Intergovernmental Organizations (IGOs), international and regional financial institutions and banks (IFIs) and Parliamentarians are organized through other mechanisms and agreements[6]. Stakeholders can join the mechanism through signing up to their respective Major Group and Other Stakeholder Group (MGoS). Elected focal points of each of the MGoS, as well as a small number of other groups, constitute the 'Stakeholder Advisory Group' (see Terms of Reference below) as integral part of the UNDRR-SEM and main interlocutor between stakeholders and UNDRR. The most recent list of focal points of the respective groups can be found on the UNDRR website.

4. The UNISDR Stakeholder Advisory Group

Purpose

The UNDRR Stakeholder Engagement Mechanism facilitates a structured and open engagement of stakeholder groups with UNISDR as well as in key global, regional and national policy processes related to disaster risk reduction. As part of the mechanism, the Stakeholder Advisory Group acts as key interlocutor with UNDRR, and enables, leads and supports an all-of-society engagement in the implementation of the Sendai Framework at the local, national, regional and global levels.

Objectives

1. Promote an **all of society** engagement and action through strengthened partnerships with and between key stakeholders, in collaboration with Member States and UN system partners.
2. Ensure a **broader and more people-centred** preventative approach to disaster risk by mobilizing and strengthening the voice of stakeholders in the Member State led implementation of the Sendai Framework.
3. Catalyse **collective action** among different stakeholders and in collaboration with Governments and the United Nations system for risk-informed development.
4. **Co-create and co-design** innovative solutions and approaches to implement the Sendai Framework and build coherence across the post-2015 agendas.

Structure

The Stakeholder Advisory Group will constitute of up to two representatives per Major Group and Other Stakeholder Group as well as invited other Constituency groups. The aim thereby is to cover all 'non-government and 'non-state' stakeholders listed in Sendai Framework Paras 36 and 48[7]. The mechanism therefore does not include representatives of Member States, United Nations system entities, intergovernmental organizations (IGOs), international and regional financial institutions and banks (IFIs) or Parliamentarians. In order to ensure

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[6] UN system entities are engaged through the UN Plan on Action for Disaster Reduction for Resilience, the UN Senior Leadership Group and the UN DRR Focal Point Group. Parliamentarians through the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the UNISDR Parliamentarian Network. IGO and IFIs through individual agreements and initiatives with UNISDR at the global and regional level.

[7] Sendai Para 36. specifies that when determining specific roles and responsibilities for stakeholders, and at the same time building on existing relevant international instruments, States should encourage the following actions on the part of all public and private stakeholders: (a) Civil society, volunteers, organized voluntary work organizations and community-based organizations to participate, in collaboration with public institutions, including women, children and youth, persons with disabilities, older persons, indigenous peoples, migrants, (b) Academia, scientific and research entities and networks; (c) Business, professional associations and private sector financial institutions, including financial regulators and accounting bodies, as well as philanthropic foundations, (d) Media. Paragraph 48 outlines the role of international organizations, UN, International and regional financial institutions and banks, international treaty bodies, IFRC, the Inter-Parliamentary-Union, and UCLG.

coherence in the implementation of all 2030 agreements, the structure of the mechanism builds on the Coordination Mechanism for the UN High Level Political Forum (HLPF) with additional constituencies and UNISDR groups and other partners included.

The Advisory Group will offer the representational spaces under the following main headings:

1. **Major Group and other Stakeholder Groups (**MGoS)

- *The Nine Major Groups as identified by Agenda 21* (1992): Women; Children and Youth; Indigenous Peoples; NGOs; Local Authorities; Workers and Trade Unions; Business and Industry; Scientific and Technological Community; Farmers;
- *Stakeholders mentioned in Rio+20 Outcome Document (*2012): Older Persons; Local communities; Migrants and families;
- *Stakeholders mentioned in UN GA Resolution A/67/290*: Foundations/Philanthropy; Educational and academic entities; Persons with disabilities; Volunteer groups;

2. CSO Groups focusing on specific 2030 Agenda policy processes[8]:

- 2030 Agenda/Sustainable Development Goals
- Financing for Development
- Paris Climate Agreement
- New Urban Agenda
- Agenda for Humanity/World Humanitarian Summit Outcomes
- HLPF Sendai Stakeholder Group

3. **UNDRR groups and stakeholders mentioned in the Sendai Framework and not covered by the MGoS**

- UNDRR Private Sector Alliance for Disaster Resilient Societies (ARISE)
- UNDRR Science and Technology Advisory Group (STAG)
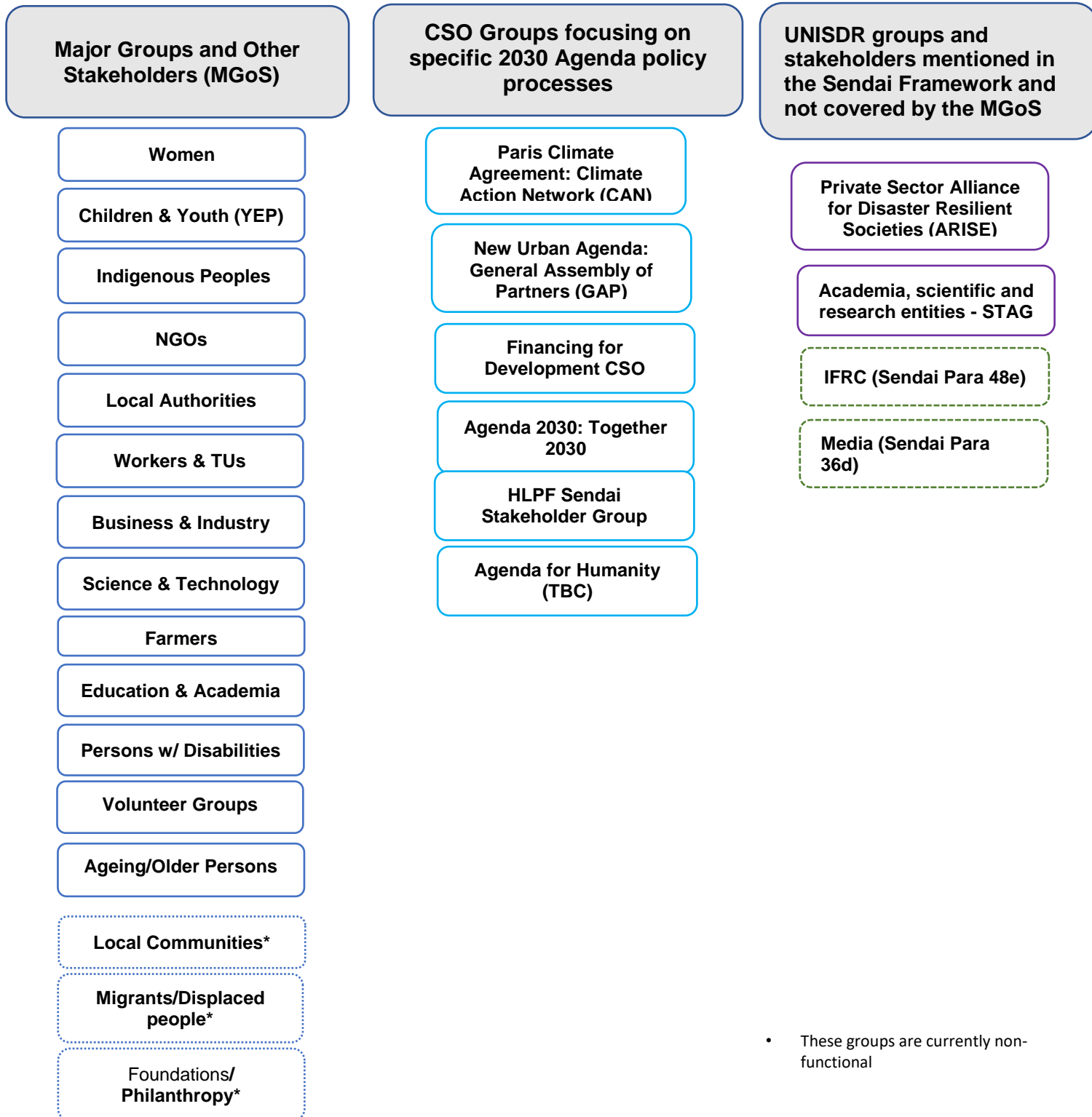- IFRC (Para 48 Sendai Framework)
- Media (Para 36d Sendai Framework)

Note:

Other UNDRR Partner groups can be added in the future e.g. a group representing UNDRR Civil society, volunteers, organized voluntary work organizations and community-based organizations (Para 36a).

There are overlaps in membership and activities among the groups. This is accepted and will be addressed through encouraging and enabling active information exchange between the groups to ensure close collaboration. For official UN meetings as well as the Global and Regional Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction the MGoS will lead the development of joint official statements. For the full rationale for these groups please see Annex 1.

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[8] https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/12906TaskForcereportonAmendmentsofTOR-fzrevs.docx.pdf

Stakeholder Advisory Group Visual

Major Groups and Other Stakeholders (MGoS)

- Women
- Children & Youth (YEP)
- Indigenous Peoples
- NGOs
- Local Authorities
- Workers & TUs
- Business & Industry
- Science & Technology
- Farmers
- Education & Academia
- Persons w/ Disabilities
- Volunteer Groups
- Ageing/Older Persons
- Local Communities*
- Migrants/Displaced people*
- Foundations/ Philanthropy*

CSO Groups focusing on specific 2030 Agenda policy processes

- Paris Climate Agreement: Climate Action Network (CAN)
- New Urban Agenda: General Assembly of Partners (GAP)
- Financing for Development CSO
- Agenda 2030: Together 2030
- HLPF Sendai Stakeholder Group
- Agenda for Humanity (TBC)

UNISDR groups and stakeholders mentioned in the Sendai Framework and not covered by the MGoS

- Private Sector Alliance for Disaster Resilient Societies (ARISE)
- Academia, scientific and research entities - STAG
- IFRC (Sendai Para 48e)
- Media (Sendai Para 36d)

- These groups are currently non-functional

Nomination and Selection Process of Representatives and Co-Chairs

1. The Major Groups and other Stakeholder groups are encouraged to claim the space within the Advisory Group through the nomination of two representatives, one main and one alternate.
2. Ensure, as much as possible, a gender balanced representation by each group.
3. Representatives from each MGoS will be self-selected for a period of two years by each group in a transparent manner. It is encouraged that selection should take into account of the organisations' interest and commitment to, knowledge of and engagement in the Sendai Framework. It is also recommended that MGoS establish Sendai/Disaster Risk Reduction groups within their governance structures as appropriate.
4. Nomination has to be done in writing to UNISDR, with an explanation of the selection process to ensure full transparency.
5. Representatives of other Constituencies e.g. Paris Agreement, Urban Agenda will be proposed by UNDRR.

Commitments by the Advisory Group Members

In joining the Advisory Group, the MGoS commit to undertake the following activities:

1. Advocacy Role

o Act as DRR advocates and promote the Sendai Framework across various global, regional and national fora and processes, including the MGoS High Level Political Forum Coordination Mechanism. This includes reaching out to organizations and groups that are not part of the MGoS to ensure the broadest participation possible.
o Promote and support coherent implementation of the Sendai Framework with the 2030 Agenda, Paris Climate Agreement, New Urban Agenda, Addis Action Agenda, SAMOA Pathway and the World Humanitarian Summit Outcomes at the global, regional, national and local levels.
o Organize and convene a biennial stakeholder forum back-to-back to the Global Platform on status, trends and opportunities for enhanced Sendai implementation and ensure inclusive participation.

2. Advisory Role

o Provide advice to the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction on key trends and opportunities in disaster risk reduction and coherence, including for enhanced stakeholder engagement.
o Provide technical guidance and leadership on innovative approaches to disaster risk reduction, including for bringing ideas and experiences from the local to the global level.

3. Brokering role

o Act as brokers to link, share and exchange global and local inputs and lessons learned from the implementation of the Sendai Framework by stakeholders at the local and national level.

4. Implementation Role

o Facilitate and support the development, implementation and monitoring of stakeholder voluntary commitments by MGoS and Sendai/ UNDRR partner group members as per A/CONF.224/CRP.3.

o Based on interest and capacities by individual stakeholder groups, develop and co-lead working groups or initiatives on specific thematic areas identified as critical by the Advisory Group.
o Facilitate stakeholder input, engagement and participation in UNDRR-led initiatives such as Sendai Framework monitoring, risk assessments and analysis, and knowledge product development e.g. for the development of the Global Risk Assessment Framework, Global Assessment Report, Words into Action: Implementation guides for the Sendai Framework, etc.

Specific Role for the MGoS for Regional and Global Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction:

The MGoS, aligned with their official mandates, will lead and facilitate the engagement of all stakeholder groups represented in the mechanism in the Global Platform and Regional Platforms as appropriate. As such, for these particular events representatives of the post-2015 agreements and UNISDR partner groups will be asked to submit their input through the MGoS.

Specific activities include:

o Facilitate the participation of stakeholders throughout the Global Platform and Regional Platforms as appropriate and their preparatory processes, working in collaboration with other MGoS representatives present.
o Facilitate the preparation of statements on behalf of the MGoS.
o Act as the main liaison between the Major Groups and UNDRR.
o Ensure that MGoS delegation comprises a range of diverse and representative participants, including from both developed and developing countries from all regions, persons with disability, as well as ensuring a gender balance.
o Nominate speakers as required.
o Oversee a transparent and fair distribution of secondary passes to meetings and events where seating is limited.

5. Commitments by UNDRR

o Facilitate access and space for stakeholders to national and international policy processes related to DRR and linked to sustainable development and climate action.
o Provide regular updates through a dedicated workspace as well as bi-monthly conference calls, on developments and emerging trends within and outside the UN system, engagement opportunities in key meetings, events and processes.
o Facilitate collective action and joint messaging among stakeholders.
o Provide input and linkages from the regional perspective through the UNDRR Regional Offices.
o Advocate for the involvement of representative groups and community organisations in local, national, regional and international planning, implementation and monitoring of disaster risk reduction.
o Ensure space for collaboration between the groups as well as with UN system partners and Member States as appropriate.
o Facilitate annual stakeholder meetings and other ad hoc meetings (incl. virtual) according to needs with particular focus on information exchange and collective action.
o Facilitate the development of biennial progress reports and other reporting on achievements as appropriate.

6. Working Modalities, Reporting and Revisions

The Stakeholder Advisory Group will be convened and facilitated by UNDRR. Inputs and engagement by Major Groups and Other Stakeholders will be self-managed and self-organized.

The Stakeholder Advisory Group will meet on an annual basis, with regular conference calls facilitated by UNDRR. The Advisory Group will prepare a biennial report on achievements for publication at the Global Platforms.

Advisory Group members are encouraged to report against results and engagement through the Sendai Voluntary Commitments Platform.

The ToR of the Advisory Group are aligned with the UNDRR strategic framework timeframe 2016-2021. The ToR will be revised in 2020 to ensure continued alignment with the development of the next UNDRR Strategic Framework. The revision will also allow for a revision of effectiveness of the mechanism and adaptation as relevant.

Application of UN rules and regulations

UNDRR and its partnership groups are governed by the rules and regulations of the United Nations. This includes that SEM members must comply with relevant UN rules and regulations, including ethical standards and principles.

Members of the SEM shall respect the impartiality and independence required of the United Nations.

SEM Members will share, as appropriate, their work and results through the Workspace on PreventionWeb and the Voluntary Commitments Platform managed by UNDRR or other channels. Information provided by members does not automatically imply endorsement by UNDRR.

All publications generated by and in the name of SEM shall be subject to review and approval by UNDRR prior to its issuance and shall contain appropriate disclaimers which will be provided by UNDRR.

UNDRR shall not be held liable for any damage, financially or structurally, which may occur in the process of any activities implemented by SEM. SEM members shall not make public statements on behalf of or represent UNDRR or the United Nations, unless specifically authorized by UNDRR.

The use of name and logo of UNDRR in any commercial statement, products or other materials shall only be done with prior written consent by UNDRR. Members of SEM are not allowed to use their affiliation to UNDRR to make personal, private or public business and benefits.

Funding

There are no membership fees for participation in the UNDRR-SEM. SEM members are encouraged to provide in-kind or financial support to specific activities or events such as Regional and Global Platforms. Any financial support will be paid into the UNDRR Trust Fund and managed by UNDRR.

SEM members will not receive remuneration for their services and are expected to secure own resources to support their engagement in the formal SEM meetings. In exceptional

circumstances, and depending on availability of resources, travel support may be provided by UNDRR for key meetings and representation in key global or regional events.

The use of UNDRR's and the United Nations name, structures or logo for fundraising, is not permitted unless specifically pre-approved by UNDRR.

Annex 1: Guidance Note on the rationale behind the structure of the Stakeholder Engagement Mechanism

The mechanism has been divided according to function for illustrative purposes <u>only.</u> However, in practice, there will be overlaps in membership across all groups. This is accepted and/or encouraged as it is envisaged that cross-linkages will be made and that there will be a cross-fertilization of ideas and information in order to prevent a siloed approach.

Major Groups and other Stakeholders (MGoS)

- o This includes the nine Major Groups and Other Stakeholders as defined by Un processes. defined by Agenda 21, Rio+20 and UN GA Resolution A/67/290. It also includes stakeholders mentioned in the Sendai Framework not covered by those groups with UN observer status such as media (Sendai Para 36c) and the IFRC (Sendai Para 48e).

- o Main functions of this group include *representation* (organisations that aggregate voices) and *advocacy.* In particular*,* these groups are an important conduit into engaging in global level policy processes such as the High Level Political Forum, Conferences of the Parties of major global agreements such as the Paris Climate Agreement but also New Urban Agenda and relevant Conventions and treaty bodies. Major Groups with regional representation through both Organising Partners and members are encouraged to use their vast networks to ensure broad representation and promotion of and information and lessons learned exchange on the Sendai Framework and risk-informed development at the global, regional, national and local level.

- o Including the Major Groups in this manner also aims at breaking down any potential silos between the groups.

- o Self-organization of these groups aims to ensure full legitimacy by the nominated focal points, including for the representation of the groups as well as the mechanism at large in critical global and regional processes. It is also hoped that this structure and working modalities will allow the mechanism partners to speak with one voice and agree on joint messaging and collaborative action.

- o If a MGoS is not operational (e.g. Local communities, Philanthropy and Migrants), and/or the slot not claimed by any network, a relevant organisation can be suggested by UNDRR.

CSO Groups focusing on specific 2030 Agenda policy processes

- o This column aims at ensuring coherence across the mechanism. It is therefore comprised of representatives of CSO groups engaged and supporting other post-2015 processes that have mandates linked to disaster risk reduction. This includes

the additional members of the Steering Group Mechanisms of the HLPF [9], as well as networks engaged in other critical UN processes such as the Agenda for Humanity.

UNDRR groups and other partners

o This sub-group consists of representatives of the existing UNDRR partner groups as well as other partners recognized in the Sendai Framework Para 36 and 48 which are not included in the MGoS.

o UNDRR partner groups are established with clear focus on operational and practical support to UNISDR. Functions include providing technical input, lessons learnt from capacity building and service delivery and advocacy.

o In order to ensure information exchange and collaboration, members of the UNDRR Partner Groups are encouraged to also join the MGoS as relevant and appropriate.

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[9] These come under the open categories of "Other Relevant Stakeholders Active in Sustainable Development" and Stakeholder mechanisms for frameworks/processes, not already included in the above listings and that have a mandate formally linked to the HLPF

RELEVANT SENDAI PARAGRAPHS

V. Role of stakeholders

35. While States have the overall responsibility for reducing disaster risk, it is a shared responsibility between Governments and relevant stakeholders. In particular, non-State stakeholders play an important role as enablers in providing support to States, in accordance with national policies, laws and regulations, in the implementation of the present Framework at local, national, regional and global levels. Their commitment, goodwill, knowledge, experience and resources will be required.

36. When determining specific roles and responsibilities for stakeholders, and at the same time building on existing relevant international instruments, States should encourage the following actions on the part of all public and private stakeholders:

. (a**) Civil society, volunteers, organized voluntary work organizations and community-based organizations** to participate, in collaboration with public institutions, to, inter alia, provide specific knowledge and pragmatic guidance in the context of the development and implementation of normative frameworks, standards and plans for disaster risk reduction; engage in the implementation of local, national, regional and global plans and strategies; contribute to and support public awareness, a culture of prevention and education on disaster risk; and advocate for resilient communities and an inclusive and all-of-society disaster risk management that strengthen synergies across groups, as appropriate. On this point, it should be noted that:

.   (i) **Women** and their participation are critical to effectively managing disaster risk and designing, resourcing and implementing gender-sensitive disaster risk reduction policies, plans and programmes; and adequate capacity building measures need to be taken to empower women for preparedness as well as to build their capacity to secure alternate means of livelihood in post-disaster situations;

.   (ii) **Children and youth** are agents of change and should be given the space and modalities to contribute to disaster risk reduction, in accordance with legislation, national practice and educational curricula;

.   (iii) **Persons with disabilities** and their organizations are critical in the assessment of disaster risk and in designing and implementing plans tailored to specific requirements, taking into consideration, inter alia, the principles of universal design;

.   (iv) **Older persons** have years of knowledge, skills and wisdom, which are invaluable assets to reduce disaster risk, and they should be included in the design of policies, plans and mechanisms, including for early warning;

.   (v) I**ndigenous peoples**, through their experience and traditional knowledge, provide an important contribution to the development and implementation of

plans and mechanisms, including for early warning;

.   (vi)   **Migrants** contribute to the resilience of communities and societies and their knowledge, skills and capacities can be useful in the design and implementation of disaster risk reduction;

. (b) **Academia, scientific and research entities and** networks to focus on the disaster risk factors and scenarios, including emerging disaster risks, in the medium and long term; increase research for regional, national and local application; support action by local communities and authorities; and support the interface between policy and science for decision-making;

. (c) **Business, professional associations and private sector financial institutions**, including financial regulators and accounting bodies, as well as philanthropic foundations, to integrate disaster risk management, including business continuity, into business models and practices through disaster-risk-informed investments, especially in micro, small and medium-sized enterprises; engage in awareness-raising and training for their employees and customers; engage in and support research and innovation, as well as technological development for disaster risk management; share and disseminate knowledge, practices and non-sensitive data; and actively participate, as appropriate and under the guidance of the public sector, in the development of normative frameworks and technical standards that incorporate disaster risk management;

(d) **Media** to take an active and inclusive role at the local, national, regional and global levels in contributing to the raising of public awareness and understanding and disseminate accurate and non-sensitive disaster risk, hazard and disaster information, including on small-scale disasters, in a simple, transparent, easy-to-understand and accessible manner, in close cooperation with national authorities; adopt specific disaster risk reduction communications policies; support, as appropriate, early warning systems and life-saving protective measures; and stimulate a culture of prevention and strong community involvement in sustained public education campaigns and public consultations at all levels of society, in accordance with national practices.

Support from international organizations, Paragraph 48

(e) Other international organizations and treaty bodies, including the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, international financial institutions at the global and regional levels and the **International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement** to support developing countries, at their request, in the implementation of the present Framework, in coordination with other relevant frameworks;

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