



# ECOSOC

United Nations Economic and Social Council

TAKING ACTION TO IMPROVE LIVES

## **HLPF Side Event Seizing Momentum for a Resilient Future: A Systemic Approach to Addressing the DRR-Adaptation-Mitigation Nexus for Empowerment, Inclusiveness and Equality**

*Draft Keynote Remarks*

by

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Excellencies, distinguished delegates and guests,

Disasters are one of the greatest threats to sustainable development, a threat that continues to increase every day. In 2017 and 2018, 91 per cent of disasters were climate-related. This is a 251 per cent increase over the last two decades. Disasters tear families apart and push people into poverty. They damage and destroy homes, schools, hospitals and critical infrastructure. They interrupt the functioning of businesses, particularly small and medium enterprises. Many of these business and services never recover.

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction gives us an agreed global policy blueprint for reducing risk and building resilience across all sectors. Observable progress has been made in reducing disaster risk through the implementation the Sendai Framework. Investing in risk reduction and resilience pays off and must be scaled up. This was the clarion call at the recent 2019 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in Geneva, Switzerland.

However, the unabated creation of disaster risk and the growing climate emergency are outpacing risk reduction efforts.

Coherence between the Sendai Framework, the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement is crucial to ensure disaster risk reduction is integrated in everything we do. A risk-informed approach to implementing the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs can reduce vulnerability and exposure to disasters for the world's poorest and most marginalized communities. Policy and programmatic coherence are also a more cost effective, efficient and impactful use of resource.

All governments and stakeholders should therefore integrate disaster risk reduction in the implementation of the SDGs. Sustainable development strategies should be aligned with disaster risk reduction strategies. The Voluntary National Reviews presented at the ECOSOC HLPF this year

give good examples where countries have integrated DRR into their national sustainable development strategies and established all-of-government mechanisms for coherence.

It is vital that countries are prepared to build back better in the wake of a disaster. This message was loud and clear at the ECOSOC special meetings on the response to Cyclone Idai in April and on pathways to resilience in climate-affected SIDS in November. Reconstruction must be an opportunity to re-write development and economic strategies to put countries on the path to resilient and sustainable development and include those left behind.

Disaster risk reduction through the implementation of the Sendai Framework remains among the most tangible and immediate steps to strengthen resilience and adaptation to climate change. The shared 2020 deadline for Target (e) of the Sendai Framework, to develop national and local disaster risk reduction strategies, and to develop national climate change adaptation plans under the Paris Agreement, as well as nationally determined contributions, is a significant opportunity to advance coherence. Making full use of this is an instrument to make real the DRR-adaptation-mitigation nexus at local and national level.

Much greater efforts are needed to develop innovative dedicated financing mechanisms to implement disaster risk reduction strategies. The ECOSOC's Forum on Financing for Development has called for integrating disaster risk reduction considerations into national financing strategies. Ministers of finance, economy and planning must be engaged to guide the development of national disaster risk reduction financing strategies and to ensure budget allocation for disaster risk reduction across all sectors.

Disaster risk reduction is at the heart of the theme of the ECOSOC this year. Poor, vulnerable and marginalized people will be even further behind in 2030 if their disaster risk is not reduced with the utmost urgency. Disaster risk reduction is an effective way to empower communities and reduce inequality. It is therefore essential that national and local disaster risk reduction strategies are developed, implemented and monitored in an inclusive and participatory manner; capitalizing women's leadership, involving historically marginalized groups, and empowering children and youth.

We are at a critical junction for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals. With the end of the first cycle of the High-level Political Forum for Sustainable Development (HLPF), we will complete the review of all the SDGs. And

we will review our overall progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the SDG Summit in September.

We must keep in mind that other high-level meetings of key relevance to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development will also be taking place in September this year, namely the Climate Action Summit, the High-level Dialogue on financing for development, the High-level meeting on universal health coverage and the High-level mid-term review of SAMOA Pathway. These September high-level events share the same ambition to accelerate action towards a resilient and sustainable future, leaving no one behind.

Failure to reduce existing disaster risk and stop the creation of new risk will severely jeopardize the achievement of the SDGs. Disaster risk reduction requires strong leadership, cross-border collaboration, collective action and goodwill. Disaster risk Reduction is truly our shared responsibility and must be at the center of our endeavor to leave no one behind.

Thank you.