



Video Message
Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction
H.E. Ms. Inga Rhonda King
President of the Economic and Social Council
13 May 2019

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I deeply regret that I was unable to join you at this year's Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction.

In my tenure as President of the ECOSOC, disasters have shown that development is not sustainable unless it is risk-informed.

Cyclone Idai in Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe highlighted the need to accelerate the integration of DRR into development for resilient societies. And Cyclone Fani in India, even more recently, demonstrated the power of recognizing risk and reducing it, through incorporating early warnings and planning initiatives to minimize loss of human life. It is clear that if we are to achieve the goals of the 2030 Agenda, we can no longer only begin to think about disaster risk after a disaster.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction is an intrinsically linked with the 2030 Agenda, and the next two years of its implementation are crucial to set us on a pathway to success.

This year, the HLPF in the ECOSOC, SDG Summit, the High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development, and the Mid-term Review of the SAMOA Pathway provide critical opportunities to recommit to global cooperation for development and disaster risk reduction.

I exhort delegations present to use the deliberations of this year's Global Platform to inform their country's positions for the negotiations of the political declaration and other outcomes of the high-level week. I look forward to their bold and transformative actions to be presented at the Secretary-General's Climate Action Summit and other acceleration commitments at the SDG summit.

At the national level, the shared 2020 deadlines for Sendai Framework Target, national and local DRR strategies, National Adaptation Plans, and NDCs are a critical step in the planning process to ensure risk and climate-informed development policy is created to inform the last 10 years of implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

In anticipation of the 2020 deadlines, I would encourage countries presenting Voluntary National Reviews at the HLPF this July in the ECOSOC to include the views and lessons learned expressed at this year's Global Platform.

We acknowledge that as development itself can create disaster risk if this component is not factored into planning and policy, we must ensure that future development and investments are risk-informed, efforts are undertaken to reduce the existing, unsustainable level of risk, and we are deliberately contributing to building resilience of the most vulnerable.

Thank you.