

Intervention by SRSB Mizutori (Fireside chat format)
HLPF Session: “Working towards the 2023 SDG Summit”
12:00 to 1:00 PM, Thursday 7 July, 2022, United Nations Secretariat, CR4

Part 1: Opening Segment (3 Mins)

Thank you for the opportunity to speak at this important session of the HLPF.

When you look at the main issues that are stifling progress on the SDGs, namely the pandemic, climate breakdown, and growing humanitarian needs from crises and disasters, it is clear that disaster risk reduction, with its focus on understanding and mitigating overlapping risks, is critical to the achievement of the SDGs.

As both the 2030 Agenda and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction will be reaching their mid-points in 2023, we must leverage the outcomes of the High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Midterm Review of the Sendai Framework, which will take place in May 2023, to inform the 2023 SDG Summit.

The 2023 SDG Summit provides a launching pad for the better integration of risk reduction into sustainable development to bring the implementation of the 2030 Agenda on track. This includes how we identify and understand risks to development, how we can embed a ‘think resilience perspective into different sectors, and how we can increase cooperation and collaboration to address common risks.

There are three particular areas that warrant special attention:

First, expanding the discourse on the understanding of risk to incorporate under-addressed risks, emerging issues and catastrophic risks.

Second, shifting from a reactive disaster management approach to a pre-emptive management of risks by changing how risk is governed. This calls for reforming risk governance approaches and modalities at national and multilateral levels..

Third, making the global financial architecture risk-informed is indispensable for a resilient future and to ensure risk reduction is integrated into all investments, public and private.

The Midterm Review of the Sendai Framework, is an extremely timely moment to take stock of global progress in reducing disaster risk. Its deliberations and political declaration will provide valuable insight to the SDG summit on how to make meaningful progress on reducing risk and building resilience by 2030. Our prosperity and that of future generations depends on it.

Part 2: Q&A Related to the Guiding Questions

1	What would be the main focus and expected outcomes of the September 2023 SDG Summit, for supporting the kind of recovery from COVID-19, climate and other crises in a way that advances the implementation of the 2030 Agenda?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▫ The outcomes of the SDGs Summit should recognise the imperative for course correction that entails fundamental changes to how we know risk and how it is considered in every aspect of decision making. With recommendations for:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ renovations to multilateral / international, and national risk governance architecture and mechanisms;○ action that requires a more complete consideration of risk in public and private investments; so that risks are no longer permitted to be treated as externalities to be ignored, when such risks and the decisions and actions that drive them remain in relationship with our context. ▫ Including in respect to emerging, complex and/or catastrophic risks.	

2	How can we best prepare the Summit at the national, regional and global levels with ownership by all Member States and engagement of all stakeholders? How can we best use the findings from the 2023 Global Sustainable Development Report?
5	How to make the Summit unique and how to bring the voices of women, and people including the most vulnerable groups such as youth and children, and grass roots community representatives?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▫ Consistent with the Guiding Principles set by Member States in the Sendai Framework, the Summit should follow an <i>all-of-society</i> (as well as <i>all of State institutions</i>) approach through active engagement of stakeholders in the preparatory process and in all the deliberations of the Summit itself – for which there are several good practices throughout the UN system.	

- In the preparatory process, deliberate steps should be taken to facilitate participation in, and connect dialogue with, other global stocktaking and review exercises – including the quadrennial review of the SDGs, the MTR SF, the Paris Stocktake, the MTR of the International Water Decade.
- Engagement should make space for distinct constituencies and groups identified in the Major Groups and Other Stakeholders and beyond.

3	What kind of achievements can countries, international institutions and other stakeholders deliver by the time of the Summit? Which countries, network or organization can advocate for the delivery of new policies or initiatives and for new ambitious action pledges and commitments to be made at the Summit?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ This needs to be accompanied by concrete commitments for new initiatives and reorientations of existing ones that reflect our changed reality and address the gaps between where we are and where we need to be. ▫ In taking stock, examining the change in context from 2015 to today, and then recommending course corrections, the MTR SF seeks to bring forth recommendations for ambitious (and challenging) reforms to risk governance and risk management to 2030 and beyond.

4	How can we generate processes that further align the private sector with the SDGs and mobilizes engagement and action of all stakeholders, revealing the sense of ownership and enthusiasm that characterized the elaborations of the 2030 Agenda, despite the on-going crisis?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ If all economic activity – both public and private – were genuinely risk-informed, it would be aligned with the outcome of the 2030 Agenda and the sustainable development goals.

- For this it is imperative that incentive structures and regulatory environments accurately incorporate the interdependent relationship between economic activity, society, and the environment.
- This will enable capital – and the business models that govern it – to be deployed in the service of people and the planet as opposed to the opposite.

6 How to better coordinate the SDG Summit with other relevant processes, including Our Common Agenda, the Transforming Education Summit, the Summit of the Future, the mid-term review of the Sendai Framework, and the High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development also planned for September 2023?

- A critical tenet of a fit-for-purpose multilateral system, and a more effective UN, will be the ability of it to move away from siloed agendas and processes (and the mandate protectionism that this fuels).
- It is thus imperative that a process like the *Summit for the Future* – which is grappling with imminent and emerging trajectories for humanity and the planet – harness and draw upon other processes such as the SDGs Summit, the mid-term review of the Sendai Framework, the Paris Stocktake and the High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development.
- The MTR SF is already seeking to do this, by braiding the processes that underpin it with the MTR of the International Water Decade, the Paris Agreement global stocktake, the roll-out of the recommendations of the Global Compact on Migration, the review of the New Urban Agenda, the follow-up to the SAMOA Pathway, etc.
- The ability of the MTR SF (or other processes) to realise this integration and alignment, is dependent on the clear endorsement, engagement and support

from UN Member States and the UN system entities. Without this, integrating risk-based reflections in these processes, and drawing out relevant elements from them into the MTR SF will not have the impact we seek – i.e. to engender transdisciplinary, inclusive, risk-informed regenerative and sustainable development decision-making and investment.