



A Risk-Informed Approach to Development in a COVID-19 Transformed World

A side event of the 2022 High-level Political Forum, held under the theme “Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”

Overview

Disaster risk reduction (DRR) is at the core of this year’s HLPF theme. The outcomes of the 2022 Global Platform for DRR, hosted by the Government of Indonesia, and 2021 Regional Platforms for DRR, hosted by the Governments of Jamaica, Kenya, Morocco, and Portugal, offer policy guidance and practical solutions to accelerate the implementation of the Sendai Framework and foster a transition from creating risk to building resilience. Global and Regional Platforms are jointly organized by the host country and UNDRR.

This event will provide participants with an overview of the outcomes of the Global and Regional Platforms and their guidance for risk-informed and prevention-oriented implementation of the 2030 Agenda, including the SDGs under review in 2022. Global and Regional Platforms are key steppingstones towards the 2023 High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Midterm Review of the Sendai Framework, which will provide forward-looking guidance to accelerate its implementation, including providing direction on how to address drivers of disaster risk in a systemic manner for sustainability and resilience in a COVID-19 transformed world.

The Midterm Review of the Sendai Framework will feed into the 2023 global stock-takes on the SDGs and Paris Agreement. It will also inform recommendations from the Secretary-General’s report on “Our Common Agenda, drawing links with the Strategic Foresight and Global Risk Report and the Futures Lab, towards addressing existing and future risks for a climate- and disaster-resilient future for all.

Background

Disasters, including pandemics such as COVID-19, have impacts across the 2030 Agenda. As of June 2021, the World Bank estimated the direct and indirect effects of COVID-19 had pushed 97 million more people into poverty. The most optimistic poverty headcount scenarios predict that an additional 37.6 million people will be living in conditions of extreme poverty due to the impacts of climate change by 2030,

compared to 2020, and the worst-case scenario predicts an additional 100.7 million.¹ Drivers of risk, such as unsustainable consumption and production, population growth, biodiversity loss, ecological degradation, disease outbreaks, food insecurity, political instability and conflict, financial instability and inequality, are increasing exposure and vulnerability to disasters and eroding development progress across the world.

Addressing this challenge necessitates a wide-ranging approach to integrating DRR at the core of policies and programs for sustainable development, and into governance at all levels. A risk-informed and prevention-oriented approach to economic, climate and development policy at all levels enables transformation towards a world where fewer hazards trigger disasters. Investing in DRR and its integration at the core of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is a prerequisite for developing sustainably.

The Regional and Global Platforms, organised every three years, are critical milestones towards the achievement of the SDGs by 2030 through building resilience. Their outcomes are also recognized by the UN General Assembly as contributions to the HLPF.²

All Political Declarations and outcomes of the Global and Regional Platforms promote a comprehensive approach to risk management that fosters policy and programmatic coherence across sustainable development, climate action, humanitarian response and recovery, and the preservation of biodiversity and ecological systems at all levels. They convey the clear message that, in order to achieve the 2030 Agenda, risk that currently exists within economic, social and environmental systems must be reduced and the creation of future risks prevented. They also point to the systemic nature of risk linked to the cascading social, economic, political and environmental impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the climate crisis and other disasters. The urgency of building resilience through the integration of disaster risk reduction into socio-economic recovery and long-term development measures is clear throughout, and there is a strong message that development that is not risk-informed is not sustainable.

¹ United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (2022). Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction 2022: Our World at Risk: Transforming Governance for a Resilient Future. Geneva.

² A/RES/76/204