

Building resilience against future shocks through structural changes and investment in sustainable infrastructure.

Good evening, I am Alinne Olvera, Representing Sendai Stakeholders Group. I am a Mexican Delegate for the International Youth Development Exchange Program, an Arise Mexico Volunteer and focal point from the MGCY Young Scientists platform on Disaster Risk Reduction.

As Sendai Stakeholders, we firmly believe that building resilience to pandemics as well as other disasters calls for promoting a multi-hazard approach to risk management.

One vital lesson learned from the COVID-19 pandemic is that countries that had put in place multi-hazard disaster risk management strategies including health emergencies, ‘found themselves better prepared to respond to COVID-19.’

Risk management should be enhanced through policies and interventions focused on systemic resilience, including equitable investments in health and in physical and social infrastructure resilience.

To implement multi-hazards preparedness and to build resilience against future shocks through structural changes and investment in sustainable infrastructure, enterprises and social protection systems need to assess the exposure, vulnerabilities and hazards within every step of a business model as well as public sector service models.

Both the private and public sector should not aim to “chase a disaster and barely recover” but to understand the systemic compartments of risk. This should be done by recognizing the environment in which they are located, assessing risk and creating risk scenarios.

Risk informed development is a key component to reach long term sustainability.