

Inputs from the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction to the 2024 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

This document responds to the request for inputs to the 2024 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), showcasing the views, findings, research, data and policy recommendations from intergovernmental bodies supported by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR). The inputs derive from:

- The [Political Declaration on the Midterm Review of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030](#), as the outcome of the high-level meeting of the Midterm Review of the Sendai Framework in May 2023.
- The [Arab-Africa Call of Tunis](#) adopted at the conclusion of the Arab-Africa Conference on Science and Technology for Disaster Risk Reduction in October 2023.
- the [Declaration of Punta de Este](#) as the outcome document of the VIII Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas and the Caribbean, which took place in March 2023 in Punta del Este, Uruguay.
- the [Co-Chairs Statement](#) as the outcome document of the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction which took place in September 2022 in Brisbane, Australia;
- The [Co-Chairs Summary](#) (Bali Agenda for Resilience) as the outcome document of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction which took place in May 2022 in Bali, Indonesia.

(a) Impacts of multiple crises on the implementation of SDGs 1, 2, 13, 16 and 17 from the vantage point of your intergovernmental / expert body.

SDG 1 (Poverty): Global poverty is one of the most urgent issues facing our world today, with previous progress on SDG1 being impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and ongoing crises. Poverty is both a driver and consequence of disasters, and the processes that further disaster risk-related poverty are permeated with inequality. Addressing disaster risk and building resilience by investing in sustainable, inclusive and resilient development is thus essential to tackle SDG1, and implementation of the SDG1 targets will also contribute to the reduction of disaster risk. Extensive research over the past 30 years has revealed that it is generally the poor who are more vulnerable and exposed to disasters. Women, children, the elderly and persons with disabilities, amongst other persons in vulnerable and marginalized situations, are particularly at risk. Impoverished people are more likely to live in hazard-exposed areas and are less able to invest in risk-reducing measures. The lack of access to insurance and social protection means that people in poverty are often forced to use their already limited assets to buffer disaster losses, which drives them into further poverty.

SDG 2 (Food): Food insecurity and famine have risen around the world due to the multiple crises, including extreme weather events intensified by climate change, ongoing conflicts and the lingering effects from COVID-19. To end hunger and food insecurity, disaster risk reduction and resilience building are key. Studies show that the agricultural sector is one of the most vulnerable sectors of the economy, in the face of climate change and extreme weather events, given its heavy dependence on water, weather, and climate. According to the [2021 FAO report on the impact of disasters and crises on agriculture and food security](#), the agricultural sector in low- and middle-income countries accounted for 63% of the damages and losses from disasters triggered by natural hazards documented between 2008 and

2018.

SDG 13 (Climate): The climate emergency is the biggest economic, social, and environmental threat facing the planet and humanity. Climate-related disasters have almost doubled compared to the previous twenty years and projected to reach 560 medium-to large-scale disasters per year by 2030. This has exacerbated inequalities within and between countries, with those contributing least to global emissions often experiencing the worst impacts of the climate emergency. Climate change is undermining the ability to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. It is rewriting the global resource map for assets such as water, arable land and energy while driving migration, displacement, and instability. Collective action, political leadership, and financing are needed to keep the global average temperature within the 1.5 degrees safer limit outlined in the Paris Agreement. However, prudent comprehensive disaster and climate risk management requires preparation for a range of negative outcomes associated with varying degrees of warming and to effectively manage unexpected concurrent threats, such as the COVID-19 crisis. This includes climate adaptation efforts and addressing and minimizing losses and damages decurrent from climate change.

SDG 16 (Peace): Geopolitical pressures, including conflict and war, have heightened vulnerabilities to disasters in fragile contexts, necessitating effective disaster risk reduction (DRR) strategies. DRR not only mitigates immediate risks but also plays a crucial role in preventing conflicts and fostering peace by enhancing community resilience through inclusive decision-making processes, as well as building resilience to future shocks. However, challenges such as weak governance, limited data availability, and constrained human and financial resources hinder DRR efforts in fragile and conflict-affected areas. To address these challenges and promote resilience, enhanced humanitarian-development-peace collaboration is imperative, enabling cost-efficiency, transparency, and collective outcomes.

(b) Three key areas where sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions for achieving the SDGs are being effectively delivered, especially related to the cluster of SDGs under review in 2024, considering the three dimensions of sustainable development and the interlinkages across the Goals and targets.

- 1. Multi-hazard early warning systems:** With human-induced climate change leading to more extreme weather conditions, the need for multi-hazard early warning systems for all is more crucial than ever. Systems that warn people of impending storms, floods or droughts are not a luxury but a cost-effective tool that saves lives, reduces economic losses, and provides a nearly tenfold return on investment. Early Warnings for All is a groundbreaking initiative to ensure that everyone on Earth is protected from hazardous weather, water, or climate events through life-saving early warning systems by the end of 2027. Since the launch of the Executive Action Plan at COP-27, tangible progress has emerged on multiple fronts. Thirty countries have been identified to receive targeted and accelerated support based on funding availability and vulnerability. Global and regional coordination, coupled with country-specific mechanisms, now underpin the entire multi-hazard early warning systems (MHEWS) value chain. Building upon this, multi-stakeholder national consultations in 13 countries have been held to date (February 2024), reinforcing political backing and strategic partnerships. Looking ahead, the initiative aims to amplify its impact by intensifying collaboration and coordination in policy, governance, stakeholder coordination, advocacy, monitoring and evaluation and finance. The focus

will extend beyond the initial 30 countries, with continued collaboration with regional bodies.

- 2. Data for risk-informed decision-making:** Since 2015, advancements in the collection and utilization of disaster risk reduction data have strengthened overall understanding of risk and its systemic nature. Countries have made strides in recording and sharing disaster loss data and in conducting risk assessments. Nevertheless, gaps remain in addressing the core elements of risk: vulnerability and exposure. UNDRR has been working closely with governments to increase the availability of data. In response to the increasing demand for climate-related data on losses and damages, a new generation of hazardous events and disaster losses and damages tracking system has been developed by UNDRR, WMO and UNDP. A prototype of the new system was completed at the end of 2023 and launched at COP28. Insufficient data disaggregated by sex, age, income and disability remains a barrier to understanding and analysing differential impacts of disasters, including the formulation of evidence-based, gender-responsive and inclusive disaster risk reduction policies and programmes. Using the Sendai Framework monitor to track progress towards the implementation of the Framework and the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 1, 11 and 13 is reducing the reporting burden on countries. Investing in strategic foresight and risk analytics, surveillance and the management of catastrophic risks and strengthening awareness of emerging and future disaster risks could contribute to forward-looking and prevention-oriented policymaking.

- 3. Disaster risk governance:** Disaster risk governance has been strengthened at all levels since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda and the Sendai Framework. The number of countries with national strategies for DRR has risen from 55 in 2015 to 126 in 2022. National DRR strategies are essential to define, implement and monitor a country's risk reduction priorities and establishing the key roles and responsibilities of government and non-government actors, and identifying technical and financial resources. They support an all-of-government and an all-of-society approach to DRR, as well as its cross-sectoral implementation, and promote the integration of disaster risk reduction into national economic and development policies and plans. DRR strategies have been most effective when they adopt an all-of-society approach and people are at the heart of disaster prevention. Additionally, coherence between sustainable development, climate action, finance and disaster risk reduction will yield positive results in terms of efficiency and effectiveness. In 2022, 102 countries reported having risk reduction strategies at the local government level. Further development of these strategies at all levels of government presents an opportunity to maximize synergies and policy and programmatic coherence across the SDGs.

(c) Three examples of specific actions, policies and measures that are most urgently needed to effectively deliver sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions to eradicate poverty and reinforce the 2030 Agenda, building on interlinkages and transformative pathways for achieving the SDGs.

- 1.** To secure a resilient future for all, we must **change from responding to disasters to managing risk**, to prevent disasters from manifesting in the first place. Prevention must tackle current and emerging hazards and risks – from environmental, technological to biological – rather than tackling each crisis in isolation. Policymakers at all levels need support to carry out this shift. To embed prevention in all decisions, it will be important to increase investments in disaster loss data collection and risk

analytics, particularly in developing countries, including through technology transfers, so that policy and investment decisions can be made based on an accurate understanding of disaster risk.

2. **Improved legal frameworks** have been observed as contributing to significant structural changes in how different public and private actors assess disaster risk or their contribution to risk creation and prevention. Legislation and regulations are needed that define accountability and responsibility across all sectors and actors for DRR, and many countries require technical support in this area.
3. **Resilience must be valued by the global financial system.** The cost of disasters to the global economy is well over \$520 billion annually and the benefits of investing in prevention and resilience has been evidenced repeatedly. For every US\$ 1 invested in risk reduction and prevention up to US\$15 can be saved in post-disaster recovery efforts. We must address short-termism and market failures through correct pricing, accounting, and disclosure of risks, using fiscal and market-based measures, regulation, and other incentives. National financial authorities, credit rating agencies and capital market actors have an important role to play in better accounting for and accurately pricing disaster risks, while also increasing transparency on exposure to and management of disaster-related risks.

(d) Follow-up actions and measures being undertaken by your intergovernmental / expert body to support implementation of the Political Declaration of the SDG Summit.

- The Political Declaration of the SDG Summit acknowledged, in its paragraph 38(k), that the implementation of the Sendai Framework will require capacity building and technical and financial assistance in order to be effectively implemented by developing countries. The General Assembly has authorized UNDRR to form a consortium with UNOPS as the initial host of the **Santiago Network** for averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change (A/RES/78/546) as per the decision emanating from COP28. The Santiago Network will be instrumental to catalyze the technical assistance of relevant organizations, bodies, networks and experts, for the implementation of approaches for averting, minimize and addressing loss and damage at the local, national and regional level, in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.
- The Political Declaration of the 2023 SDG Summit recommitted to the full implementation of the Sendai Framework in its paragraph 38(k). The **United Nations Senior Leadership Group (UN SLG)** on Disaster Risk Reduction endorsed the 2030 UN SLG recommendations, which will guide the UN system-wide support on disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and resilience building until 2030, and complement the commitments made in the UN Plan of Action on DRR for Resilience. The United Nations Senior Leadership Group recommends:
 1. Strengthen risk governance at all levels, including within and across sectors.
 2. Accelerate efforts to include risk-informed programming in development, humanitarian and peace actions.
 3. Support efforts related to investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience and reforming the financial system to better consider climate change, the

- environment and other risks.
4. Boost inclusive disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation measures.
 - 4.1. Scale up and systematize an all-of-society approach by strengthening inclusion and applying a human rights-based approach to disaster risk reduction to leave no one behind.
 - 4.2. Enable gender-responsive disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.
 - 4.3. Scale up and systematize child-responsive disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.
 5. Maximize efforts around strengthening multi-hazard early warning systems.
- The Political Declaration of the SDG Summit recognized in its paragraph 38(k) the need for a more people-centred preventive approach to disaster risk reduction, and that disaster risk reduction policies and practices need to be inclusive and accessible. In the second half of 2023, the **Gender Action Plan to support implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030** (Sendai GAP) was developed to “substantially increase resource allocations, activities and impacts of gender-responsive disaster risk reduction and substantially decrease gender-related disaster risk by 2030.” The guiding principles of the Sendai Framework recognize the need for a gender perspective to be integrated in all disaster risk reduction policies and practices and highlight the importance of women’s participation and leadership. These principles also stress that disaster risk reduction needs to promote and protect “all human rights, including the right to development”, and emphasize that, while each State has the primary responsibility for reducing risk, it is necessary to have all-of-society engagement and partnership. Furthermore, the guiding principles of the Sendai Framework recognize that disaster risk reduction “requires empowerment and inclusive, accessible and non-discriminatory participation, paying special attention to people disproportionately affected by disasters.” The Sendai GAP operationalizes these guiding principles of the Sendai Framework, identifying nine Key Objectives and 33 recommended actions. It will be launched on the margins of the sixty-eighth session of the Commission on the Status of Women.

(e) Recommendations and key messages for inclusion into the Political Declaration of the September 2023 SDG Summit.

- The success of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development rests on the ability of countries to reduce disaster risk. **Sustainable development cannot be attained while disasters continue to undermine development progress.** It is critical to acknowledge that risk-informed development policies and investments in all sectors and at all levels is imperative. This requires commitment to an all-of-government comprehensive approach to risk management and governance informed by multi-hazard disaster risk assessments to address the complex and systemic nature of disaster risk in all sectors;
- It is also critical to acknowledge that disaster risk is created by development and investment decisions that are not risk-informed. There is a need to **recommit to reducing disaster risk and building resilience**; accelerating the pursuit of policy, investment and innovation to reduce disaster risk and build the resilience of countries, economies, communities and individuals to technological, biological,

environmental, geological and hydrometeorological hazards; guided by the Sendai Framework and in line with the outcomes of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the midterm review of the Sendai Framework.

- **Disasters continue exacerbating poverty situations**, in a self-reinforcing cycle. We must address disaster risk reduction and the building of resilience to disasters with a renewed sense of urgency within the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication. It is key to promote and develop social protection systems based on risk-informed early action programmes, social safety nets, livelihood advancement programmes and inclusive policies to build the resilience of households and communities to disasters. Resilient infrastructure is important to reduce the loss of lives and livelihoods. This includes promoting the full, equal, meaningful and inclusive participation and contribution of all sectors of society, including those facing additional vulnerabilities, such as women, older persons and the youth.
- Disaster risk reduction must be mainstreamed in the implementation of policies for **food security and nutrition**. Risks, shocks, and underlying vulnerabilities threaten food system outcomes and their resilience and sustainability. Drivers, as well as outcomes, are interlinked and subject to multiple systemic risks. Food systems can be transformed to improve food production and security through comprehensive disaster and climate risk management and planning for the agrifood sector. It is crucial to promote crop insurance, climate-resilient food production systems, crop diversification including utilization of drought- and flood-tolerant crop varieties, and adoption of water and soil moisture conservation techniques. It is important to do a contextual shift from food and nutrition security to food system resilience and from siloed approaches to systems thinking, enlarging the focus on climate-related hazards to a multi-hazard perspective. Enhanced resilience and adaptive capacity can mitigate the impact of climate-related disasters on agriculture and food security. Phenomena such as the El Niño, which can lead to severe food insecurity in different parts of the world, evidence the need for impact-based forecasting and multi-hazard early warning systems that can support societies to better understand, manage, and reduce these risks.
- To strengthen the **global response to the threat of climate change**, in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty, it is important to scale up risk-informed climate action to reduce vulnerability and exposure to disasters and evade maladaptation. Integrating risk-informed planning, programmes and financing, and promote comprehensive disaster and climate risk management is key. It is fundamental to invest in reducing hazard exposure and vulnerability to disasters and strengthen multi-hazard disaster risk governance at all levels and sectors to achieve the Global Goal on Adaptation. Supporting countries in capacity building and technical and financial assistance to averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change is key, and the Santiago Network will be instrumental to catalyze the technical assistance of relevant organizations, bodies, networks and experts in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.
- To **promote peaceful and inclusive societies**, we must strengthen the capacity of State structures and social systems to commit to and scale up agile and comprehensive risk governance. By strengthening national multi-hazard risk governance, the ability of institutions to prepare for and respond to disasters, reduce humanitarian needs and strengthen trust in government can be increased. This includes establishing or strengthening national platforms for disaster risk reduction, or similar mechanisms, to

strengthen coordination across ministries, institutions and sectors at all levels; mapping existing policy architecture and capacities for disaster risk reduction and addressing gaps and assigning roles and responsibilities across ministries and institutions, as needed; and ensuring that disaster risk reduction is further incorporated into programming across sectors, particularly in conflict areas. There is also the need to strengthen risk communication systems to provide timely access to adequate disaster risk information and engage citizens to think about resilience. By leveraging the expertise and resources of diverse stakeholders, including governments, international organizations, civil society, and local communities across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, a more integrated approach to DRR can be achieved, contributing to stability and sustainable development, especially in fragile contexts.